THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL
A PAPER [illegible] CONTAINING ALL THE
CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE
AND VALUABLE READING
FOR THE FAMILY.
TERMS OF THE WEEKLY:
[illegible]
COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VII.—NO. 6. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 11, 1869.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A SENSIBLE AND VIGOROUS DOCUMENT.

Immediate Resumption of Specie Payments and General Revision of Tariff and Internal Revenue Taxation Not Recommended—No Recognition of Cuba's Belligerency—The Alabama Claims—Our Foreign Relations.

Reports of the Secretary of the Treasury, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Comptroller of Currency and Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 6, 1869.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

WHAT WE ARE TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

In coming before you for the first time as Chief Magistrate of this great nation, it is with gratitude to the Giver of all Good for the many benefits we enjoy. We are blessed with peace at home and are without entangling alliances abroad to forebode trouble; with a territory unsurpassed in fertility, of an area equal to the abundant support of [illegible] people, and abounding in every variety of useful mineral in quantity sufficient to supply the world for generations; with exuberant crops; with a variety of climate adapted to the production of every species of earth's riches, and suited to the habits, tastes, and requirements of every living thing; with a population of forty millions of free people, all speaking one language; with facilities for every mortal to acquire an education; with institutions closing to none the avenues to fame or any blessing of fortune that may be coveted; with freedom of the pulpit, the press, and the school; with a revenue flowing into the national treasury beyond the requirements of the Government. Harmony is being rapidly restored within our own borders. Manufactures hitherto unknown in our country are springing up in all sections, producing a degree of national independence unequaled by that of any other power. These blessings and countless others are intrusted to your care and mine for safe-keeping for the brief period of our tenure of office. In a short time we must, each of us, return to the ranks of the people who have conferred upon us our honors, and account to them for our stewardship. I earnestly desire that neither you nor I may be condemned by a free and enlightened constituency nor by our own consciences.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Emerging from a rebellion of gigantic magnitude, aided as it was by the sympathies and assistance of nations with which we were at peace, [illegible]

Treasury for the creation of the office of Commissioner of Customs Revenue; for an increase of salary to certain classes of officials, and the substitution of increased national bank circulation to replace the outstanding 3 per cent. certificates; and most especially to his recommendation for the repeal of the laws allowing shares of fines, penalties, forfeitures, &c., to officers of the Government or to informers.

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

The office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue is one of the most arduous and responsible under the Government. It falls but little, if any, short of a Cabinet position in its importance and responsibilities. I would ask for it, therefore, such legislation as in your judgment will place the office upon a footing of dignity commensurate with its importance, and with the character and qualifications of the class of men required to fill it properly.

CUBA.

As the United States is the freest of all nations, so, too, its people sympathize with all peoples struggling for liberty and self-government. But while so sympathizing, it is due to our honor that we should abstain from enforcing our views upon unwilling nations, and from taking an interested part, without invitation, in the quarrels between different nations, or between governments and their subjects. Our course should always be in conformity with strict justice and law, international and local. Such has been the policy of the administration in dealing with these questions. For more than a year a valuable province of Spain, and a near neighbor of ours, in whom all our people cannot but feel a deep interest, has been struggling for independence and freedom. The people and government of the United States entertain the same warm feelings and sympathies for the people of Cuba in their pending struggle that they manifested throughout the previous struggles between Spain and her former colonies in behalf of the latter. But the contest has at no time assumed the conditions which amount to a war in the sense of international law, or which would show the existence of a *de facto* political organization of the insurgents sufficient to justify a recognition of belligerency. The principle is maintained, however, that this nation is its own judge when to accord the rights of belligerency, either to a people struggling to free themselves from a government they believe to be oppressive, or to independent nations at war with each other. [illegible]

passed the Senate in March last. This drew from the representatives of the company an agreement to accept as the basis of their operations the provisions of the bill, or of such other enactment on the subject as might be passed during the approaching session of Congress; also, to use their influence to secure from the French Government a modification of their concession, so as to permit the landing upon French soil of any cable belonging to any company incorporated by the authority of the United States, or of any State in the Union, and on their part not to oppose the establishment of any such cable. In consideration of this agreement, I directed the withdrawal of all opposition by the United States authorities to the landing of the cable, and to the working of it, until the meeting of Congress. I regret to say that there has been no modification made in the company's concession, nor, so far as I can learn, have they attempted to secure one. Their concession excludes the capital and the citizens of the United States from competition upon the shores of France. I recommend legislation to protect the rights of citizens of the United States, as well as the dignity and sovereignty of the nation, against such an assumption. I shall also endeavor to secure by negotiation an abandonment of the principle of monopolies in ocean telegraphic cables. Copies of this correspondence are herewith furnished.

[illegible]

The unsettled political condition of other countries less fortunate than our own sometimes induces their citizens to come to the United States for the sole purpose of becoming naturalized. Having secured this, they return to their native country and reside there without disclosing their change of allegiance. [illegible]

[illegible]

separately. Whatever amount Congress may deem proper to appropriate for those purposes will be expended. The recommendation of the General of the army, that appropriations be made for the forts at Boston, Portland, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Francisco, if for no other, is concurred in. I also ask your special attention to the recommendation of the General commanding the military division of the Pacific, for the sale of the Seal Islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska Territory, and suggest that it either be complied with, or that legislation be had for the protection of the seal fisheries, from which a revenue should be derived.

The report of the Secretary of War contains a synopsis of the reports of the heads of bureaus, of the commanders of military divisions, and of the districts of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, and the report of the General of the Army in full. The recommendations therein contained have been well considered, and are submitted for your action. I, however, call special attention to the recommendation of the Chief of Ordnance for the sale of arsenals and lands no longer of use to the government. Also, to the recommendation of the Secretary of War that the act of the 3d of March, 1869, prohibiting promotions and appointments in the staff corps of the army be repealed. The extent of country to be garrisoned, and the number of military posts to be occupied are the same with a reduced army as with a large one. The number of staff officers required is more dependent upon the latter than the former condition.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, accompanying this, shows the condition of the Navy when this administration came into office and the changes made since. [illegible] Looking to our future I recommend a liberal though not extravagant policy towards this branch of the public service.

THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Postmaster General furnishes a clear and comprehensive exhibit of the operations of the postal service, and of the financial condition of the Postoffice Department. [illegible]

U. S. GRANT.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, December 6, 1869.

[illegible]

clerks, messengers and laborers, at a monthly cost of $253,921 51. At present the whole number of such employees is 2,441, and their monthly pay amounts to $228,289 85, showing a decrease of expenses at the rate of $67,168 01 per annum. It was found necessary, however, during the period mentioned, to increase the force in the Internal Revenue office and in the office of the First Comptroller. This increase in the aggregate is at the rate of $80,419 per annum. This statement does not relate to the force employed in the bureau of engraving and printing.

In March last there were sixty-two special agents in the service of the department, receiving in the aggregate for their services the sum of $371 20 per day. Each of these agents made his report to the department, and acted under its direct orders. The number at present employed is fifty-four, and their daily pay amounts to $300 85. The pay of the agents has been increased generally, in the hope that more efficient services might be obtained.

The seaboard frontiers of the country have been divided into sixteen special agency districts, and a superintendent appointed for each. Assistants have been appointed, detailed to act under the several district agents. The orders of the department are in all cases sent to the agents in charge of the district, and the reports of his assistants are made to him. The agent is required to make a monthly report of his own doings and of the doings of his subordinates. The results thus far obtained appear to justify the organization introduced.

Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of paper for the currency and other obligations of the United States, and for the printing of the same, which will increase the security of the Government against unlawful issues from genuine plates. Under the eleventh section of an act approved June 30, 1864, entitled "an act to provide ways and means for the support of the Government and for other purposes," a peculiar paper has been designated as the Government paper, and by that act it is made felony for any person to have or retain in his possession any similar paper adapted to the making of any obligations or security of the United States, except under authority of the Secretary of the Treasury or some other proper officer of the United States. Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of this paper by Messrs. Wilcox & Co., near Philadelphia, and the mills owned by them, which are exclusively devoted to this purpose, have been placed under the supervision of officers of the Government, and such precautions have been taken for the custody of portions of the machinery as to render it improbable that the paper manufactured can be obtained by dishonest means. It is received by an agent of the Government stationed at the mills, and upon requisition of the department it is shipped to the National Bank Note Company, the American Bank Note Company, and the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department, as the case may require. Arrangements have also been made with each of the two companies mentioned for the preparing of plates for every issue of currency or other obligation. The engraving and printing bureau at Washington prepares a third set, and each office places an imprint upon every obligation of the government. [illegible]

[illegible]

and whose labors are not limited to the ordinary hours of duty should be made to feel that they are properly compensated.

There are two changes in the organization of the Treasury Department which I consider important. The first change to which I refer is the creation of a Chief Comptroller of the Treasury, who shall be authorized to control the system of accounting by the several Auditors and Comptrollers, and to whom all appeals shall be made upon questions arising in the accounting offices of the Treasury. The creation of this officer, clothed with the powers indicated, will give uniformity to the accounting system, and I trust it will be in the power of the officer appointed to simplify the system and materially reduce the expenses of the department. In this particular, the second change to which I call attention is, in my opinion, even more important. At present there are eight divisions in the Secretary's office, whose duties are connected exclusively with the customs revenue system. There is no person except the Secretary of the Treasury, who is by law authorized to pass finally or in any way authoritatively upon questions arising in the administration of the customs revenue laws. At the present time the revenue from customs is as large as the revenue from the excise system; the number of men employed and the field of its operations are nearly as great. It is impossible for the Secretary of the Treasury to give the various questions that arise in the administration of the system that attention which is essential to the service. The duties of superintending the collection of the customs revenue are so varied, delicate and important as to justify and require the exclusive attention of the most competent persons whose service can be obtained.

The experience of the present year in the administration of the internal revenue system, and the collection of the excise tax, justifies the opinion that the establishment of the office of Commissioner of Customs Revenue, corresponding in powers and positions to that of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and the appointment of a competent Commissioner, would render the execution of the customs much more efficient and harmonious, while the revenue would probably be increased to the amount of many millions of dollars annually. Nor is it probable that expenses would be materially greater.

Including interests earned and not paid and deducting cash on hand, the debt of the United States on the 1st of March last was $2,525,463,260 01, and subject to the same condition it was $2,453,559,735 23 on the 1st of the present month, showing a decrease of $71,903,524 78. This apparent decrease of the public debt is less than the actual decrease. Considerable sums have been paid on account of war and other old claims not previously ascertained, and therefore not included in any debt statement. The account of March 1st, from the necessity of the case, included only the interest accrued and not then payable, but as a matter of fact there were outstanding and over due interest coupons amounting to several millions, which have since been paid out of the ordinary revenue. Previous to March 1st no interest account had ever been kept with the several loans. Such measures as were found practical have since been taken to ascertain the exact condition of these amounts. The bonds issued by the United States in aid of railways amounting to $62,925,320, being in the nature of a loan are not included in the foregoing statement.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, there was an excess of receipts over expenditures, including the interest on the public debt, of $49,453,149 46. Of this excess $11,992,-370 05, as nearly as can now be ascertained, arose previous to March 1st and the remainder, [illegible], between that time and the first day of July. This excess was applied from time to time to the purchase of 5-20 bonds, and the excess of receipts since July 1st has been used in the same manner. The purchases amounted in the aggregate on the 30th day of November to $75,476,800. As a large part of the excess of receipts was realized in coin, sales of gold have been made from time to time, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of bonds. With the exception of some in Chicago, New Orleans, St. Louis and Baltimore, for the payment of duties, the sales of gold and the purchases of bonds have been made uniform through the agency of the United States Treasury, and without any expense to the government, except the comparatively small amount paid for advertising the proposals. The average premium on gold sold since March 1st has been 132 8-10 per cent., and the average premium paid for bonds has been 109 8-100 per cent.

On this basis on the sales of gold and purchase of bonds, the average price paid for bonds in coin has been 88 55-100 per cent.

The act of February 25th, 1862, provided that the coin received for duties upon imported goods should be annually set apart as a sinking fund to the extent of one per centum of the entire indebtedness of the United States. In conformity with this requirement, I have purchased bonds to the amount of [illegible], and designated them as belonging to the Sinking fund. These purchases are a substantial compliance with the statute. From the fourth of March last I have not felt myself authorized or required to make any provision for the time that elapsed from the passage of the act and previous to the commencement of the administration. With the excess of means at my command I have purchased bonds, in addition to those purchased for the sinking fund, to the amount of [illegible]. These are held as a special fund, subject to the action of Congress, and I respectfully recommend that they be added to the sinking fund, and that any further purchases that may be made be so added until the gross amount shall constitute a fund equal to that which would have been created if there had been no delay in the execution of the law.

The depreciation of the currency is due to two causes; First, an excessive issue; and secondly, to the want of faith in the Government. The extent of the influence of the first named cause cannot be ascertained until the second is removed, substantially. Whenever our credit shall be so much improved at home and abroad that holders of our bonds are disposed to retain them when the public mind is excited upon financial subjects, we shall be able to judge more accurately the extent of the over issue of paper money. It is also true that the quantity of currency necessary for the transaction of the business of the country cannot be fixed accurately. Since the close of the war the wants of the States of the South have increased, and consequently a large amount of currency has been withdrawn from other sections to supply the demand there created. The amount necessary for the purposes of the South will steadily increase for the next two years. The construction of the Pacific Railroad is likely to result in the substitution of paper for coin by the people on the Pacific coast. It is probable that the demand for paper for that purpose will not be less than $30,000,000. As a consequence a very large quantity of coin will be withdrawn from circulation, and thus practically the coin will be increased upon the Atlantic coast, and the paper circulation in the States east of the Rocky Mountains will be materially reduced. These changes will tend to diminish the difference between paper and coin. The ability of the country to resume specie payment will not be due to any special legislation upon the subject, but to the condition of its industries and its financial relations to other countries. These, of course, will be more or less dependent on the general policy of the Government.

The war exhausted the country of its material wealth, and the States of the South were literally impoverished. A necessary condition for the resumption of specie payments was the development of the industry of the nation, both South and North, and the consequent accumulation of moveable products of industry to such an extent that our exports of those products should be equal substantially to our imports. So long as it is necessary to pay for merchandise imported by the transfer of Government bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, to other countries, so long it will be impracticable to resume and maintain specie payment. When the products of industry exported shall be equal substantially to the products of other countries imported, there will be no demand for specie for export except what may arise from the circumstance that our bonds held abroad are sent home, sold on our markets and the proceeds exported in coin. When the credit of the country shall be fully established in Europe, and there shall be no doubt either of our ability or disposition to meet all of our obligations, bonds heretofore and now to a large extent held by merchants and bankers will be transferred to capitalists for permanent investment. When this change shall have taken place, the probability of our securities being sent home under the influence of political or financial disturbances in England will be very light, and when as a concurring fact our exports, exclusive of public securities, shall be equal to our imports, specie payments may be resumed without even a temporary embarrassment to the business of the country.

One of the most efficient means of strengthening the country in its financial relations with other countries is the development of our commercial marine. The returns show that a very large amount of the foreign trade is in English hands. We are not only thus dependent upon a rival country for the performance of the business which should be in the hands of our own people, but our ability to maintain specie payments is materially diminished. If the entire foreign trade of the country, both of exports and imports, were carried on in American ships, the earnings would not be less than seventy-five millions of dollars. Were the trade exclusively in American hands, a large part of this difference of forty-two millions of dollars would be due to citizens of the United States, and payable in other countries. This amount would be thus added to our ability to pay for goods imported from those countries. If for example an American citizen purchase in New York a thousand barrels of flour for six thousand dollars, and exports it to Liverpool in an American vessel, and it is then sold for seven thousand dollars, a bill of exchange may be drawn against the proceeds and an invoice of goods of the value of seven thousand dollars purchased in England entirely liquidated, although at the Custom House of New York there would be an apparent balance against the country of one thousand dollars. But if, on the other hand, the one thousand barrels of flour are exported in a British vessel, the proceeds of the flour realized in New York, and which can be applied to the payment of goods bought in England, will be only six thousand dollars, and there will remain an actual balance against the country of a thousand dollars. This familiar example shows the importance of re-establishing our commercial supremacy upon the ocean, and I deem it, therefore, essential to our prosperity that the shipping interest of the country be fostered, not only as a nursery for seamen, but also as an essential agency in enabling the government to institute and maintain specie payments. It is an interest also which, in its development, is as important to the States and people remote from the sea coast as it is to the maritime sections. Every addition to our facilities for the export of the products of the interior is as advantageous to the producers as to the merchant and ship builders of the coast. While I do not anticipate that it will be necessary to delay resumption until our proper commercial position is regained, I am satisfied that the development of the navigation and ship building interests will improve the credit and rapidly augment the wealth of the country.

The suggestions that I have made indicate my opinion that it will not be wise to resume specie payments while so large a part of the interest bearing debt of the country is represented by five-twenty bonds and held by European merchants, bankers and manufacturers. Questions that have been raised in regard to the nature of the obligation assumed by the Government in the issue of these bonds have undoubtedly deterred many persons from purchasing them as a permanent investment, and consequently they are largely held in this country and Europe for speculative purposes by persons who design to put them upon the market whenever an advance shall furnish a sufficient inducement, or when political or financial disturbances may create a demand for money for other purposes. It is probable that from seven to nine hundred millions of these bonds are now held in Europe, and to a considerable extent by persons who will dispose of them under the influence to which I have referred. Such a panic as exploded in Europe in 1866 at the opening of the Austrian and Prussian war would be likely to induce the return of a sufficient amount to this country for sale to embarrass business, and in case of resumption to cause the suspension of the banks. It is, therefore, in my judgment, essential that the largest part of the five-twenty bonds be withdrawn, and that other bonds be substituted in their place, based upon terms and conditions which admit of no doubt. In fine, the practical question is not merely the resumption of specie payments. As a measure by itself, it is not difficult, but the problem is to resume under such circumstances that the position can be maintained not only in times of tranquility, but also in time of financial disquiet.

Our course, it seems to me, is plain. Every measure of the Government bearing upon the subject should tend to appreciate the value of our paper currency. It is probable that some decrease in the volume of paper will ultimately be necessary, and I therefore respectfully suggest that the Secretary of the Treasury be clothed with authority to reduce the circulation of United States notes in amount not exceeding two million dollars in any one month. Thus will the country be brought, gradually it may be, and yet without disaster, into a condition when the resumption of specie payments will be easy if not unavoidable.

On the 1st of December, 1869, the principal of the public debt of the United States, not deducting bonds and cash on hand, amounted to $2,605,286,789 82. Of this amount the sum of $356,113,258 50 is represented by United States note-bearing interest. The larger part of this is needed for circulation, but the amount can be ordered from the ordinary revenue of the country, if Congress shall consider it expedient to make provision for such reduction. The fractional currency in circulation was $38,-885,564 69, and there is no occasion for any legislation in reference to this item of the public debt. There were outstanding also certificates for gold deposited in the Treasury to the amount of $36,862,940. These certificates are redeemable on presentation. These three items amount in the aggregate to $431,861,763 18; and in making provision for the public debt they are not necessary to be considered. Of the loan of January 1st, 1859, the sum of $7,022,000 is outstanding and payable on the 1st of January, 1871. The loan of 1858, of twenty million dollars, is payable in 1873. The bonds known as ten-forty bonds, amounting to $194,567,300, are not payable until 1874. The six per cent. bonds, payable in 1881, amount to $283,677,-100. As to the bonds known as '81s and 10-40s, amounting in the aggregate to [illegible], they are not due and cannot be paid previous to 1874 and 1881. It is unnecessary to consider them in making provision for a new loan. The 5-20 bonds, amounting in the aggregate to $1,602,-671,100, are either due or will soon become due, and it is to this class of the public debt, and to this class alone that attention should be directed. Of this amount the sum of [illegible] has been purchased since March last, and the bonds are now held by the Government. Before any measure for funding the 5-20 bonds can be consummated, the Government will be able to purchase at least $75,000,000 more. There will then remain on the 1st of July next about $1,450,-000,000 of the 5-20 bonds in the hands of public creditors.

Of the entire indebtedness of the United States, only the unimportant sum of twenty-seven million dollars will be due and payable previous to 1874. Under these circumstances, it does not seem to me to be wise to authorize the funding of the whole amount of 5-20 bonds, which, as is now anticipated, will be outstanding on the 1st July next, but that $250,000,000 at least should be suffered to remain either for purchase or redemption previous to 1874. Should the sum of $250,000,000 be left for that purpose, the entire public debt would be in a condition to be easily redeemed. Between 1874 and 1881, the 10-40 bonds could be paid, and provision also made for the redemption of bonds which will become due in the year 1881. It may be wise to reduce the proposed loan to $1,000,-000,000, which would then leave for payment previous to 1881 the sum of about $670,000,000, or hardly more than $90,000,000 a year. Assuming that the proposed loan will be for an amount not exceeding $1,200,000,000, I recommend that it be offered in three classes of $400,-000,000 each, the first class of $400,000,000 to be payable in fifteen years, and to be paid in twenty years; the second class of $400,000,000 to be payable in twenty years, and to be paid in twenty-five years; the third class of $400,000,000 to be payable in twenty-five years and to be paid in thirty years.

The essential conditions of the new loan appears to me to be these; first, that the principal and interest shall be made payable in coin; second, that the bonds known as 5-20 bonds shall be received in exchange for new bonds; third, that the principal be payable in this country and interest payable either in the United States or Europe, as the subscribers to the loans may desire; fourth, that the rate of interest shall not exceed four and one-half per cent. per annum; fifth, that subscribers in Europe shall receive their interest at London, Paris, Berlin or Frankfort, as they may elect; sixth, that the bonds, both principal and interest, shall be free from all taxes, deductions or abatements of any sort, unless it shall be thought wise to subject the citizens of the United States to such tax upon income and from bonds as is imposed by the laws of the United States upon incomes derived from other money investments.

There are two reasons, and each seem to be controlling reasons, why bonds should be exempt from State and local taxes. If not so exempt, the amount of the taxes imposed by the local authority will be added to the interest the Government will be required to pay, and thus the national Government will be compelled to provide for taxes imposed by the local authorities. Secondly, in as much the ability to borrow may, under some circumstances, be essential to the procrastination of the Government, the power should not, even in time of peace and prosperity, be qualified by any concession to the States of the right to tax the means by which the national Government is maintained. The right to use lawful powers free of any condition, restriction or claim of another, is an essential condition of sovereignty, and the national Government should never surrender or qualify its power in this particular. In offering the new loan, citizens and subjects of other governments should receive the strongest assurance that the interest and principal are to be paid in coin, according to the terms of the bonds issued, without any deduction or abatement whatsoever. In order to avoid the necessity of employing agents for the negotiation of the loan, I respectfully recommend that a liberal commission be allowed to subscribers and that those who first subscribe be permitted to select the class of bonds in which their subscriptions respectively shall be made.

I further recommend, in connection with the proposed loan, that banks established under the act to provide national currency be required to substitute bonds that may be issued under the proposed loans for those for redemption of their bills. Should any bank be unwilling to accept this new condition, provision should be made for the surrender of its charter and authority given for the organization of new banks to supply the deficiency thus created. An essential condition to the success of the proposed view is the continuance of the present revenue system. A chief means by which the present holders of 5-20 bonds can be induced to surrender them and receive a bond upon longer time, and at a lower rate of interest, is the certainty furnished by the magnitude of the national revenue that these bonds are soon to be redeemed. We must be prepared to offer them the alternative either of accepting the new bond at a lower rate of interest, or payment of the principal of the existing bonds. When the 5-20 bonds shall have been funded to the amount of $1,000,000,000 or $1,200,000,000, the revenues can be reduced materially, and yet a sufficient sum be raised to meet the ordinary expenses of the government, to pay the interest on the public debt, and also to pay $25,000,000 to $50,000,000 of the principal annually. Should our success in negotiating the loan be equal to my expectations, based upon the fact that the ability and disposition of the people of the United States to pay the public debt are sufficient to justify us in assuming the bonds of the United States will command the highest rates in the market of the world, we shall then be in a condition to enter upon the work of reducing taxation at the commencement of the next session of Congress.

On the 30th of June, 1868, the amount of outstanding three per cent. certificates and compound interest notes convertible into three per cent. certificates was $71,604,890.

On the 30th of June, 1869, the amount outstanding was $54,991,410, showing a reduction of $16,313,480 in that form of indebtedness. On the 1st of December, 1869, the amount outstanding was still further reduced to $49,716,750, showing a total reduction in seventeen months of [illegible]. The three per cent. certificates are a substitute to a considerable extent for United States notes, being largely held by the banks as a portion of their reserve, and thus indirectly, though not to their full nominal value, they swell the volume of currency. I recommend that provision be made for the redemption of three per cent. certificates within a reasonable time, and as a compensating measure for the reduction in the amount of the currency which would thus be caused, that authority be given to grant charters for banks in the States where the banking capital is less than the share to which they would have been entitled, to an amount not exceeding $35,800,000 in the aggregate. The redemption of the three per cent. certificates and the additions to the banking capital might be so arranged as not to produce a serious disturbance in the finances or business of the country, while additional banking capital would be supplied to the sections now in need of it, and this without any increase of the values of circulation.

There are two evils in the present banking system which require remedy by prompt and efficient legislation. The first is the practice on the part of banks of allowing interest upon deposits. The effect of this practice is that moneys in the hands of individuals, which otherwise might be loaned for regular mercantile and other business purposes, are diverted into the custody of banks, upon the idea that if the security is not better, payment can be obtained at a moment's notice. Country banks and others remote from the large centers of trade having received money on deposit, for which they pay interest, are anxious to transfer such funds to other banks, from which they will receive an equal or larger amount of interest in return. They are stimulated also by the desire to place their funds where they can be at all times commanded. Thus influenced, large sums are placed on deposit with banks in cities, especially in the city of New York, which is the great center of trade and finance for the Atlantic coast. In the ordinary course of trade the currency of the country tends rapidly to the cities. It is unwise to stimulate this tendency by artificial means. But the evil does not end with the impoverishment of the country. As the banks in the cities may be called upon at any moment to respond to the drafts of their depositors, they decline to make loans representing such funds upon commercial paper, payable on time, but insist upon making call loans, as they are termed, with Government bonds or other obligations pledged as collateral security. Merchants generally will not borrow money in large sums payable upon demand. The consequence is that moneys thus accumulated in the city banks are loaned to persons engaged in speculative pursuits. The extent of this evil is seen in the fact of the bank loans in the city of New York in October, 1868, $98,000,000 were upon commercial paper and $68,000,000 upon demand, with a pledge of collaterals and in October, 1869, $89,000,000, were upon commercial paper, and $89,000,000 upon demand. In the former year 91 per cent., and in the latter year 37 per cent. of the loans made by the New York banks were upon demand. A further result is seen in the fact that parties borrowing money upon commercial paper, for legitimate commercial purposes, pay from three to six per cent. additional interest per annum, as compared with persons who borrow money for speculative purposes. I therefore respectfully recommend that a law be passed prohibiting absolutely the payment of interest by banks upon deposits, and limiting also their loans upon collaterals to an amount not exceeding ten per cent. of their capital.

I am satisfied also that the practice of certifying checks, even when funds are in the bank to the credit of the drawer of the check, is fraught with evil, and that it ought to be entirely prohibited.

The following statement exhibits the receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1869:

RECEIPTS.

Customs	$180,048,426 63
Internal Revenue	158,356,460 86
Lands	4,020,344 34
Direct tax	765,685 61
Miscellaneous sources	27,752,829 77
Total, exclusive of loans	$370,943,747 21

EXPENDITURES.

Civil service	$56,474,061 53
Pensions and Indians	35,519,544 84
War Department	78,501,990 61
Navy Department	20,000,757 97
Interest on the public debt	130,694,242 80
Premium on 7 30-100 United States Treasury notes	300,000 00
Total, exclusive of loans	$321,490,597 75

Receipts in excess of expenditures $49,453,149 46.

The following statement exhibits the receipts and expenditures for the quarter ending September 30, 1869:

RECEIPTS.

Customs	$52,598,921 86
Internal revenue	47,936,352 51
Lands	893,864 08
Miscellaneous sources	7,412,483 57
Total, exclusive of loans	$108,841,622 02

EXPENDITURES.

After deducting the amount of repayments by disbursing officers and others:

Civil service	$15,102,202 05
Indians and pensions	13,547,942 79
War Department	13,599,468 05
Navy Department	5,782,630 96
Interest on the public debt	37,452,270 74
Total, exclusive of loans	$85,480,514 59
Receipts in excess of expenditures	23,351,107 44

The estimated receipts and expenditures for the three remaining quarters of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, are as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Customs	$135,000,000 00
Internal Revenue	127,000,000 00
Lands	4,000,000 00
Miscellaneous sources	20,000,000 00
Total	$286,000,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

Civil service	$40,000,000 00
Pensions and Indians	21,000,000 00
War Department	40,500,000 00
Navy Department	14,000,000 00
Interest on public debt	93,750,000 00
Total	$209,250,000 00
Estimated receipts in excess of expenditures	76,750,000 00

The estimated receipts and expenditures, based upon the existing laws, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871:

RECEIPTS.

Customs	$185,000,000 00
Internal Revenue	175,000,000 00
Lands	5,000,000 00
Miscellaneous sources	28,000,000 00
Total	$393,000,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

Civil, foreign and miscellaneous	$60,000,000 00
Interior Indians and Pensions	31,000,000 00
War Department	50,000,000 00
Navy Department	18,000,000 00
Interest on the Public Debt	122,000,000 00
Total	$291,000,000 00
Estimated receipts in excess of expenditures	$102,000,000 00

"The foregoing estimates of receipts are made upon the assumption that the laws now in force relating to customs and internal revenue will not be so changed as to materially affect the revenue, and the estimate of expenditures are based upon the expectation that no extraordinary appropriations will be made.

[Signed,] GEO. S. BOUTWELL,
Secretary of the Treasury.

REPORT

OF THE

Commissioner of Internal Revenue

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE,
WASHINGTON, November 20, 1869.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the tabular statements made up from the accounts kept in this office, which the Secretary of the Treasury is required to lay before Congress.

They are as follows:

Table A, showing the receipts from each specific source of revenue, and the amounts refunded in each collection district, State, and Territory of the United States, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869.

Table B, showing the number and value of internal revenue stamps ordered monthly by the Commissioner, and monthly receipts from purchasers of internal revenue stamps, the commissions allowed on the same, and receipts from agents for the sale of stamps, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869.

Table C, showing the territorial distribution of internal revenue from various sources in the United States.

Table D, showing the total collections from each specific source of revenue for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1869, respectively.

Table E, showing the ratio of receipts from specific sources to the aggregate of all collections for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, and 1869, respectively.

Table F, abstract of reports of district attorneys concerning suits and prosecutions under the internal revenue laws.

The total receipts from internal revenue sources, exclusive of the direct tax upon lands and the duty upon the circulation and deposits of national banks, were, for the fiscal year 1869, $160,039,344 29.

This includes the sums refunded for taxes illegally assessed and collected, amounting to $380,285 12, nearly all of which was for taxes assessed and collected in previous years.

For the fiscal year 1868 there were refunded $1,018,334 81.

Drawbacks were also allowed to the amount of $1,379,980 01.

No drawbacks were allowed during the fiscal year 1869 by this bureau, excepting on general merchandise, under section 171 of the act of June 30, 1864, limited under the act of March 31, 1868, to ale and patent medicines, amounting to $377,411 31. The drawback on rum and alcohol is not allowed by this bureau.

The receipts for the current year are estimated at $175,000,000.

RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEARS 1868 AND 1869 COMPARED.

A comparative statement is submitted, showing the total receipts from the same general sources of taxation for the first six months of the fiscal years 1868 and 1869:

From July to December, 1868, inclusive.....$67,296,388
From July to December, 1867, inclusive.....66,110,630

Total gain for first six months of 1869...$ 1,186,358

The following table exhibits the loss and gain on the several articles subject to taxation during the same periods, and explains the sources from which the gain was made:

[illegible]

Sources of revenue.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gain.	Loss.	Gain per cent.	Loss per cent.
Spirits	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tobacco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fermented liquors	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gross receipts	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sales	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Income, including salaries	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Banks and bankers	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Special taxes not elsewhere enumerated	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Legacies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Successions	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Articles in Schedule A	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Passports	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penalties	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net receipts from stamps	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	66,110,630	67,296,388	12,000,021	10,813,663		

Total gain for the above period $1,186,358, or 1 8-10 per cent.

During this period, the amount gained on spirits is.....$9,536,522
The amount gained on stamps is.....608,365
The amount gained on sales is.....1,666,104
The greatest loss from any one source of taxation for this period was upon incomes, which amounts to.....8,747,499
In special taxes, not included under spirits, tobacco, &c., the loss was.....1,485,619

It is worthy of special notice that in regard to the receipts from tobacco since January 1, 1869, and hereafter referred to as being largely increased, the loss of revenue on this article for the preceding six months amounted to $6,232; and it should be borne in mind, in considering this loss, that the present system of collecting the tax on tobacco had not gone into full operation prior to January 1, 1869.

RECEIPTS FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEARS 1868 AND 1869 COMPARED.

A comparative statement is submitted, showing the total receipts from the same sources for the last six months of the fiscal years 1868 and 1869:

From January to June, 1869, inclusive.....$90,542,760
From January to June, 1868, inclusive.....64,479,948

Total gain of last six months of 1869 over 1868.....26,062,812

The following table exhibits the loss and gain on the several articles subject to taxation, and explains in detail the sources from which the gain was made during this period:

Comparative table showing the aggregate receipts from the same general sources of revenue taxable under existing laws, for the last six months of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1868 and 1869; also the gain or loss, and gain or loss per cent., of those in the latter over those in the former period.

Sources of revenue.	Receipts for the last six months of fiscal year—1868.	1869.	Gain.	Loss.	Gain per cent.	Loss per cent.
Spirits	$9,117,691	$25,901,940	$16,784,249		184	
Tobacco	8,670,639	13,439,483	4,768,844		55	
Fermented liquors	2,920,394	3,011,568	91,174		3	
Gross receipts	3,030,507	3,084,324	53,817		2	
Sales	[illegible]	4,276,146	[illegible]		83	
Income, including salaries	[illegible]	21,738,241	2,033,757		11	
Banks and bankers	1,862,753	1,996,451	133,698		7	
Special taxes not elsewhere enumerated	[illegible]	6,127,069		$162,091		3
Legacies	[illegible]	698,617		166,147		19
Successions	793,447	705,702		87,745		11
Articles in Schedule A	529,985	541,233	11,248		2	
Passports	7,915	16,413	8,498		107	
Gas	1,128,203	1,262,890	134,687		12	
Penalties	772,611	385,862		386,749		50
Net receipts from stamps	7,506,286	8,356,801	850,515		11	
Total	$64,479,948	$90,542,760	$26,865,544	$802,732		

Total gain for the above period $26,062,812, or 40 per cent.

It will be observed that the gain on distilled spirits during this period of comparison is.....$16,784,249
On tobacco.....4,768,844
On fermented liquors.....91,174
On incomes.....2,033,757
On stamps.....850,515
From gas companies.....134,687
From banks and bankers.....133,698

The only articles on which a loss was sustained are legacies, successions, and penalties—special taxes not included under spirits, &c.—and these aggregate only $802,732.

RECEIPTS FROM SAME GENERAL SOURCES FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1868 AND 1869.

From April to September, 1869, inclusive.....$102,861,950
Twenty-six districts for this period, not yet returned, estimated at.....1,516,000

Total amount for this period.....$104,377,950
From April to September, 1868, inclusive.....80,543,082

Total gain of last period.....23,834,868

The following table exhibits the loss and gain on the several articles subject to taxation during the same period, and explains the sources from which the gain was made:

Comparative statement showing the aggregate receipts from the several general sources of revenue subject to tax under the laws now in force, for the six months ending September 30, 1868 and 1869; also the gain or loss of those in the latter over those in the former period.

Sources of revenue.	Receipts for the six months ending September 30—1868.	1869.	Gain.	Loss.
Spirits	$13,686,801	$24,687,952	$11,001,151	
Tobacco	8,900,722	15,509,252	6,608,530	
Fermented liquors	3,371,643	3,360,966		$10,677
Gross receipts	3,016,317	3,236,832	220,515	
Sales	2,927,499	4,029,100	1,101,601	
Income, including salaries	27,466,162	30,239,073	2,772,911	
Banks and bankers	2,193,661	2,521,094	327,433	
Special taxes not elsewhere enumerated	7,787,809	7,858,538	70,729	
Legacies	674,468	664,385		10,083
Successions	652,188	565,412		86,776
Articles in Schedule A	811,827	813,253	1,426	
Passports	12,945	11,596		1,349
Gas	[illegible]	806,408	20,875	
Penalties	[illegible]	344,116		401,778
Net receipts from stamps	7,220,023	7,924,883	704,860	
Total	$80,543,082	$102,861,950	[illegible]	[illegible]

The aggregate receipts for the present year will be increased by the returns from twenty-six districts, amounting, it is estimated, to $1,516,000. The total gain, not including the receipts from these districts, $22,318,868. If the receipts from the unreported districts equal the above estimate the total gain will be $23,-834,868, or 29½ per cent.

During this period the gain on spirits is.....$11,001,151
On tobacco.....6,608,530
On sales.....1,101,601
On incomes.....2,772,911
On stamps.....704,860
From banks and bankers.....327,433

The gain on spirits, during this six months of comparison, is not so large by nearly six millions as it was for the six months ending 30th of June last. This is accounted for by the circumstance that the old spirits in bonded warehouse on the 30th of August, 1868, when the new law went into effect, were all by operation of law to be withdrawn from bond and tax to be paid prior to July 1, 1869. It is a fact, however, that the gain on tobacco, for this period of comparison, exceeds that for the six months ending June 30, 1869, by $2,000,000; showing a steady and continuous increase of revenue from this source. The gains on stamps, incomes, and sales correspond very nearly with the gains on these articles for the six months of comparison, ending June 30, 1869.

It is to be remembered in referring to the foregoing comparative tables, that they do not

THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,
PUBLISHED BY
THE COMMERCIAL PRINTING COMPANY
OFFICE, 76 FIFTH AVENUE,
(OPPOSITE POSTOFFICE.)
C. D. BRIGHAM, - - - - - - Editor.
R. D. THOMPSON, *Business Manager.*
TERMS OF THE DAILY:
Single Copy.....5 Cents.
Delivered by Carrier (per week).....25 Cents.
Subscribers by Mail, (per year).....$10 00.
☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.
☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address
THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

profess to give the gross receipts of revenue for the periods of comparison, but the receipts from the same general sources merely. The reason is that alterations in the law changed the subjects of taxation during the periods of comparison, and hence a statement of the gross receipts would not exhibit the relative and economical increase and decrease of the revenue. Referring to the gains on spirits and tobacco for these periods, it seems proper to say that there is every cause for congratulation that the law of July 20, 1868, taxing these articles, was enacted.

RECEIPTS FROM THE SAME GENERAL SOURCES, FOR THE FIRST QUARTERS OF THE FISCAL YEARS 1869 AND 1870, COMPARED.

The following statement of the receipts from the several general sources of revenue for the first quarter of the present and last fiscal years includes the returns of twenty out of the twenty-six districts not given in the table immediately preceding, and received since the preparation of that table. The receipts of the following districts only are, therefore, not included in the receipts for the year 1870: Third Mississippi and ninth Kentucky, for the month of July; third Mississippi, for August; eleventh New York, sixth Tennessee and fourth Texas, for September.

Sources of Revenue.	Receipts for first quarter of fiscal years—1869.	1870.
Spirits	$8,465,443	$10,017,031
Tobacco	4,295,674	8,131,298
Fermented liquors	1,790,692	1,739,639
Banks and bankers	888,078	1,246,286
Gross receipts	1,514,756	1,727,206
Sales	1,739,513	1,961,888
Special taxes not elsewhere enumerated	2,969,427	3,244,634
Income, including salaries	11,201,899	13,278,504
Legacies	278,590	340,381
Successions	254,065	265,287
Articles in schedule A	309,843	317,984
Passports	8,665	2,583
Gas	341,128	400,577
Sources not otherwise herein specially enumerated. (Articles now exempt from taxation)	874,431	126,328
Net receipts from taxation	3,393,472	3,685,678
Penalties	306,402	156,111
Total	$38,620,898	$46,641,415

Total gain, $8,020,517, or 20.8 per cent.

It will be seen that the gain on tobacco during this period of comparison is increased, and that on stamps is sustained, while that on spirits is fully sustained, if allowance be made for the fact that the old spirits in bond had all been withdrawn and the tax paid before this period commenced. The gain on tax of banks and bankers is likewise more than sustained by this comparison, and the entire table affords ample promise of satisfactory future results.

AGGREGATE RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEARS 1869 AND 1870 COMPARED.

The following is a statement showing the aggregate of certificates of deposits received at this office from July to November, 1868 and 1869:

	1868.	1869.
July	$16,990,649 92	$21,578,634 94
August	13,909,385 70	15,015,396 81
September	9,760,796 29	13,022,303 87
October	10,092,335 34	12,054,799 57
November	9,641,304 63	13,145,569 75
Total	$60,385,471 88	$74,816,704 94

SPIRITS.

In considering the large increase of revenue from distilled spirits for the last six months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, the subjoined facts should be remembered. There were in bonded warehouses on 1st July, 1868, as shown by the accounts kept in this office, 27,278,420 gallons of spirits. This included all claims for leakage then outstanding, and a large quantity claimed to have been destroyed by the burning of several bonded warehouses, as well as certain amounts which had previously been withdrawn upon fraudulent bonds [illegible]

Total gallons distilled spirits, old product.....24,479,512
Number gallons apple brandy produced prior to July 1, 1868, and tax paid after that date at $2 per gallon.....37,122

Total gallons.....24,516,634

Number of gallons of spirits produced from July 20, 1869, to June 30, 1869, on which tax was collected at 50 cents per gallon.....36,704,046
Number of gallons of grape and apple brandy, tax paid at 50 cents per gallon.....871,737

Total gallons.....37,575,783

Total amount on which the tax was collected.....62,092,417

Number of gallons withdrawn for consumption and export from July 1, 1867, to June 30, 1868.....10,936,647
Of this was exported without payment of tax.....4,227,101

Balance on which the tax was collected for fiscal year 1868.....6,709,546

From which it appears that the amount for which the tax was collected for 1869 exceeded that for 1868, gallons.....55,382,871

There was produced during the year and in bond July 1, 1868, gallons.....4,159,704

It would appear, also, if the records of this office exhibit fully all the spirits that were consumed and exported during the two years, that for the year 1869 the consumption and exportation exceeded that of 1868 to the extent of 51,155,770 gallons.

These figures are presented not for the purpose of showing the true amount of production and consumption of distilled spirits, but to exhibit the fact that, prior to the law of July 20, 1868, the government did not collect a tenth part of its tax on distilled spirits.

After July 20, 1868, and prior to June 30, 1869, a period of eleven months, the number of gallons of spirits shown by the records of this office to have been produced, and the tax paid thereon, was.....36,704,046
And of brandy from fruit during the same period.....871,737

Total on which the tax was collected.....37,575,783
Produced during the same period and remaining in bond July 1, 1869.....16,663,838
Showing a production in eleven months of.....54,239,621

Being at the yearly rate of 59,170,496 gallons.

The following table shows the receipts for distilled spirits and fruit brandy for the four years ending June 30, 1869:

Year.	Spirits	Brandy.
1866	$29,198,578 15	$283,499 84
1867	28,296,264 31	868,145 03
1868	13,419,092 74	871,638 24
1869	33,225,212 11	510,111 57

These figures show simply the gallon tax. They do not include the capacity tax nor the special taxes of distillers, rectifiers, liquor dealers, &c., which are elsewhere included in the receipts from spirits. The rate of tax for those years was two dollars per gallon until July 20, 1868, when it was reduced to fifty cents.

It is not believed, however, that for the year ending June 30, 1869, the tax has been collected on all the spirits which have gone into consumption, or that all manufactured, on which tax was uncollected, have been placed in bonded warehouse; and it is not doubted that the results of the current year will verify the accuracy of this opinion.

RESURVEYS AND CAPACITIES OF DISTILLERIES.

According to the plan of surveying distilleries originally adopted by this bureau, the average fermenting period is seventy-nine hours. There have been surveyed and operated, under the law of July 20, 1868, by this plan, 864 distilleries. These distilleries have a total mashing and fermenting capacity of 150,155 bushels of grain in twenty-four hours, and a spirit producing capacity of 473,666 gallons for the same period. The number of these distilleries now in operation is 444, with a producing capacity of 243,410 gallons each twenty-four hours when operating to their full extent. The number now under temporary suspension is 420, with a producing capacity of 230,252 gallons each twenty-four hours. Of these it is estimated that at least fifty per cent. will renew operations during the winter months. One hundred now running have resumed, with the approval of the government, since the 1st of September last.

Having become convinced that the average fermenting period heretofore established was much too great, and was a means of fraud upon the revenue, I have ordered a resurvey of all distilleries in the United States. This work is now progressing upon the basis of forty-eight hours for the average fermenting period, which it is believed is sufficient time, though, under necessary circumstances and conditions, longer time may be given.

By this survey the following result is obtained: The present capacity of the 864 distilleries, at 79 hours' fermentation is 473,666 gallons for every 24 hours.

By the resurvey, at 48 hours' fermentation, the capacity for each 24 hours is estimated at 677,342 gallons.

The present capacity of the 444 distilleries now operating, at 79 hours' fermentation, is 243,410 gallons for every 24 hours.

The capacity of the same, by the resurvey, on 48 hours' fermentation, is 348,076 gallons, or an increase of 104,666 gallons for each twenty-four hours.

The per cent. of increase in capacity, by the new survey, is forty-three one hundredths.

While this action is believed to be just to the manufacturer, it is expected to work a large increase of the revenue by preventing evasions of the tax, and in many instances positive frauds.

LEAKAGE.

The practice of allowing spirits, when taken out of bond, to be regauged in order to deduct the difference, under the title leakage, between the quantity gauged when the spirits were received in bond and when taken out, has been a fruitful source of fraud. This office is in possession of facts showing that the government has been generally and almost systematically cheated by this practice. Measures have been taken which it is hoped will result in recovering some of the losses thus sustained.

In view of these facts, and with a clear conviction that the act of July 20, 1868, abolished all provisions for leakage on spirits manufactured after that date, and that, by the proper construction, spirits previously made and placed in bond were no longer subject to deductions for leakage, this office issued an order on the 14th of April last, disallowing leakage in all cases.

It is believed that this regulation works no injustice to the dealer, while it saves the revenues from fraudulent depletion.

THE LAW AS TO SPIRITS.

In the absence of reliable data to fix the annual consumption of distilled spirits we are left to the necessity of conjecture. Were I to express an opinion on this subject, I should place the amount at not less than eighty millions of gallons. This quantity, if the tax were collected, would yield a revenue of not less than fifty-two millions of dollars, basing the estimate on the hypothesis that the entire tax on spirits equals sixty-five cents per gallon.

The best consideration I have been able to give this subject has brought me to the conclusion that, after the present law taxing spirits has been brought into complete execution, and such amendments have been made as time and experience may demonstrate to be necessary to perfect the system, it will yield an annual revenue of sixty millions of dollars.

In view, therefore, of these probabilities, it is submitted whether it will be wise or expedient for Congress to change its legislation in any essential particular as to the amount or as to

[Continued on Fourth Page.]

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1869.

PRESIDENT GRANT.

The clear tone and directness of expression in the President's message commands the admiration of all unprejudiced readers. The idea of independent responsibility which pervades the document gives unmistakable assurance that GRANT is President and that he means to be during his whole term. In his inaugural he assured the people that he felt the weight of his responsibility, and was determined to do his duty as far as he had power and strength. Since then his official duties have been faithfully performed, and now, in his first annual message, we have the same quiet, self-reliant individuality which has always characterized the man. While the message contains his own deliberately formed views and informs the country what the Executive intends to do in reference to the topics presented, it bears malice toward none, does not trench upon the rights of any, nor commit offense against the views of those who may differ with the President. This character of a message is doubly welcomed by the people, as it is the first addressed to them during the last four years that has not done outrage to all but those who had sought to destroy the nation by rebellion. But whilst the message does not contain anything offensive to the feelings of any portion of our people it lacks nothing in the way of positive views presented in forcible and emphatic language. On the other hand, the message is written in such a way that the President does not fall into the petty sin of egotism—a minor failing of his predecessor. As a statesman, not of theory, but of far reaching practical views, he has written his message, and by reason of his own individuality and independence has given the people assurance that they have a President at last who understands the duties of his office and is determined to discharge them.

THE LESSON OF THE DOCUMENTS.

Much of our paper for some days has been taken up with the various Reports of the Departments, prepared for the use of Congress. Many persons, no doubt, find these papers exceedingly dull reading, and a few may even think that it is hardly right to publish them entire, in a journal intended for the miscellaneous public. With those entertaining this notion we cannot agree; indeed, we fancy that the persons who hold it have hardly reflected upon the real importance of the Documents in question.

Though prepared more directly and particularly for the use and guidance of members of Congress and officers of the Government, they are of direct, particular, immediate utility to every citizen who desires to be truly intelligent. If our institutions are what we suppose them to be, every citizen is, in an important sense, a statesman. While our Government is not a pure democracy, in which every person entitled to vote is also called upon to give his voice for or against in the great questions of peace, war, and so forth, yet every voter in the exercise of his judgment aids in selecting the men whose duty it is to decide these matters. The theory of our Government assumes that the subjects with which our practical statesmen have to do, will be studied by the people also. As a fact in the past, we know that such subjects have been inquired into by the masses. But never before were there so many subjects of absorbing and wide reaching interest demanding their attention as at present. It seems to us also that very many who now neglect to study the topics comprehended in these grand papers fail in this respect from some antecedent notion, or prejudice as to their own capability of understanding them, or as to the essential dryness as well as difficulty of the subjects. Both these prepossessions we believe to be unwarranted. Most people have heard a phrase about "the mysteries of state or statesmanship," and have been awed by the imposing suggestions just as people used to bow in reverent submission when King James prated about kingcraft. We do not question that statesmanship in our day and country offers a field for the exercise of the greatest talents and knowledge. But as to the subjects of these reports we suppose that they are fairly within the intelligence of any man or woman capable of understanding the operations of business. As the wit said about St. Denis's walk: "It is only the first step that costs." Let any one set about the study of one of these documents, with the honest desire to comprehend its details, and in a short time much of the obscurity that rested upon them will vanish, and the result will be a curiosity in regard to the bearings and relations of the Department which will prompt to prolonged investigations. In truth, apart from each one's personal interest in the subject discussed, it would be difficult to find inquiries better adapted to entertain an inquisitive mind than those embraced in these documents. From books we can learn the isolated facts of geography and the general principles of finance, population and national economy. But in these papers we have a great nation portrayed in action and life. We have principles in the concrete. A vast country with its energetic people and the mighty machinery of their government, is herein laid open for our inspection and study.

A mere enumeration of the topics through which we are carried in them, would appeal powerfully to the imagination, and tend to expand the mind. But in these topics every inhabitant of the land is directly interested. In view of these considerations we respectfully advise all readers to make a point of not only reading but studying these documents for the sake of what they contain, and that they may be able intelligently to follow the discussions of their subjects in Congress.

SPEAKER AND TREASURER.

If the people of Pennsylvania wish to see the Legislature organized and the offices within its gift bestowed in the interest of Economy, Honesty and Reform, they have only so to will it. They may depend that their Representatives will act no better than themselves. Special reasons exist why the Republican constituency, if they really wish to see their Representatives acting from the start in the interest of Economy, Honesty and Reform, should take steps as to instruct them before they set out for Harrisburg. One of the principal reasons is, that while the people themselves are right, and are relying on the efficacy of the expression of public opinion, which has already been made, there is a class of leaders, corrupt, conscienceless and unscrupulous, who have determined to rule hereafter as heretofore at Harrisburg—to buy and sell the offices, and carry on the business of legislative brokerage, whereby the State Capital will continue to be as it has for years been disgraced, and the public subjected to deep and lasting injury. With the "unexpended balance" in their hands, they make no disguise of their intention to stop or put through laws as they are calculated to enlarge or diminish the field of their operations. This unexpended balance clique are now making their boasts that notwithstanding the expression which the people have made against them, they will organize the Legislature by electing their Speaker, that they will select the State Treasurer, and, with the Committees made up by such a man as STRANG, will "run" the Legislature to the close. This is their boast, and this they will do, if the Republican masses do not take the matter into their own hands, and use special means to let their Representatives know what are their views. No man of ordinary intelligence will pretend for a single instant that we have colored our statement of the objects and movements of the unexpended balance clique. One of the most active and trusted of them, the editor of the Beaver *Radical*, does not hesitate to avow that everything connected with the organization and the election of State Treasurer "has been set up and is going through," and on all hands we hear of their defiantly proclaiming that STRANG shall be Speaker and MACKEY State Treasurer. Nor is there any manner of doubt, that unless the Republican masses come to the rescue the clique will succeed, in which case a worse state of things will prevail at Harrisburg than has yet been known. We ask the Republicans of Pennsylvania: Can you carry another load such as the Legislature of last winter placed on your shoulders? Is not the averting of such a calamity to the party and the State something to strive for? STRANG is the the favorite for Speaker, because last winter he proved himself capable and willing to go as far as the farthest in extravagance and whatever was objectionable in legislation, and perfectly reckless as to consequences. He comes naturally to the front the instant the question of the Speakership is raised in the interest of the clique. Mr. MACKEY was taken up for Treasurer last winter and elected, simply because he was what he was, and is the candidate of the clique now for the same good enough reason. CAMERON, ("DON") QUAY & Co.—by whom we mean the most corrupt and audacious leaders this or any other State has ever known—selected MACKEY simply because they liked him, and they like him still. Anybody else would have been taken just as soon, if he only possessed the requisite amount of those peculiar qualifications necessary to the success of the clique, and would be equally "convenient" concerning the "unexpended balance." Having tried him for one term, he is the clique's candidate for another. Common fame credits the clique with expending in cash and cash promises to secure MACKEY's election between forty and fifty thousand dollars. The names of those to whom the cash and the promises were given, with the amounts to each, are familiarly handed around, and no one pretends to question the accuracy of the list. Nor is there any doubt what promises have been kept, or what attempts are making to compromise those that have not been kept. All these things will form a very proper and interesting chapter at the fitting moment. The downright, undenied and undeniable corruption of the last winter, the clique are exerting themselves to the uttermost to repeat this, with STRANG for Speaker, and MACKEY for Treasurer. During the year the price of money has ruled high, and the unexpended balance has been profitable. The clique therefore can afford to pay liberally. They wish to have this understood, and are ready to receive proposals, especially for MACKEY, who, if possible, is more necessary to their purposes than even STRANG. Members and Senators who have a disposition and think they can afford to engage in the enterprises of the clique, should not hesitate to step forward and receive their share of "balance." It is ready for them, the only question being—are they? All who are ready will come to the front. Before doing so, however, they should estimate the chances in the future of enjoying such a reputation as unpurchasable men prize so highly.

POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

There need no longer be any doubt about the Policy of Gen. GRANT's administration. It is made entirely clear in his Message and the Reports of his Secretaries. Immediate resumption of specie payment finds no favor, nor does anything having even the slightest tendency towards free trade receive encouragement. On the contrary, the ruinous consequences of immediate resumption, or resumption at any time, if forced, are pointedly set forth. The policy of the Administration in this regard will be to manage the affairs of the country so that, as Mr. BOUTWELL aptly states it, we may "resume under such circumstances "that the position can be maintained "not only in times of tranquility, but also "in times of disquiet." To the success of the financial policy which the Secretary proposes, he declares that the present revenue system is essential. Gen. GRANT, after recommending that the present tariff be not disturbed, except to remove certain unjust discriminations, with true wisdom and foresight, says, "the extension of Railroads "in Europe and the East is bringing into "competition with our agricultural products, like products of other countries," and adds: "Self-interest, if not self-preservation, therefore, dictates caution "against disturbing any industrial interest "of the country."

We may conclude, therefore, that tariff tinkering in Congress will be discouraged by the administration, which will favor an American policy, as essential to the payment of the debt and continued national prosperity.

The funding of the national debt at four-and-a-half per cent. is a distinct feature in the Administration's Policy. On this point, and also in regard to resumption, Secretary BOUTWELL is especially able, and to his views the President lends a hearty support.

A Free Banking system is another feature of the Administration Policy. This subject is ably discussed by Mr. HULBURD, in his admirable report as Comptroller of the Currency, and his views are supported by Mr. BOUTWELL, whose report in every particular manifests a breadth of statesmanship at once gratifying and assuring to the country.

These are the prominent features of the Policy of the Administration, on the questions of Debt, Taxation and Currency. Already its enunciation has had a happy effect on the public mind. Confidence is rising again in the great business centres. It will speedily diffuse itself through the channels of business; for, to use a homely expression, we know now that "there is going to be no fooling," so far as General GRANT and his Cabinet are concerned.

The domestic policy of the Administration, in other respects, as set forth in the Message and Documents, is characterized by practical statesmanship, soundness of judgment and honesty of purpose; while, in regard to foreign affairs, moderation, firmness and a just regard for our treaty obligations and the rights of others are evinced throughout.

THE MECHANIC OF 1849 AND 1869.

Nothing is more common than the assertion by free traders that the condition of American mechanics at the present time is not as good as it was in ante-war times. It is asserted over and over, that the decline in the price of labor is not followed by a corresponding decline in prices of most of the necessaries of life. That "the day for the poor man has passed in this country," and other statements of a similar character, all having the same general bearing, are uttered with all the confidence and assurance so frequently accepted as evidence of the possession of sufficient facts. The sum and substance of all these statements concerning the present condition of the American mechanic, as contrasted with his condition ten years ago, may be reduced to one argument, to wit: that the tendency of all tariffs is to impoverish the working classes. The working classes, say the specious free traders, are taxed to pay the difference between the price of foreign and home production, less the carriage and commission; and according to the mode of reasoning adopted by one wing of the free traders, they are taxed to pay that also.

Now we take the ground that notwithstanding the taxation incident to the war, the condition of the American workingman never was more prosperous, compared with his position and that of his employer, than it is to-day.

We are willing to go back twenty years to the "good old times" of 1849 and 1849, as the free traders enthusiastically term the past, satisfied that a faithful summing up of all the facts will warrant the conclusion that whoever may have suffered by the changes which have occurred in the interim, it certainly is not the laboring classes. Twenty or twenty-five years ago the mechanic who earned from seven dollars and a half to nine dollars a week steadily, counted himself in a manner fortunate, especially if he obtained all he earned. From one end of the country to the other "store orders" were common, and cash payments extremely rare. The mechanic on $7 50 a week occupied three or four rooms at most, generally less, and lived frugally. His furniture comprised a few "common" wood-seat chairs of a pattern long since gone out of use; his walls were seldom papered; his best room covered with a rag carpet, or none at all. His table corresponded to his household appointments. Double-extra family flour was a thing he did not indulge in. In those days there were no fancy brands. Such as there were, however, were to be had in abundance. Butter was an article of diet dealt in sparingly. Molasses was in universal demand. Meat, although cheap, was not used as frequently as it is to-day. Bacon and buckwheat sufficed many a family through the winter. In the matter of wearing apparel there was a contempt of fashion, and a commendable inclination for the fabrics produced by American looms. Kentucky jeans and plain satinets were the main stand-by of mechanics, who accounted themselves equally as skillful and independent as those of the present generation. Of what are termed the luxuries of the table, the workingmen twenty-five years ago knew comparatively nothing. They expended little in amusements. Twenty-five years ago it was a rare thing for the wife of a mechanic to ask the aid of a servant. If she was in good health, she discharged the sole household duties. By the exercise of economy and frugality, the mechanic of that period was sometimes, though seldom able, with good fortune attending him, to build his own house.

How is it in 1869? In the matter of employment, there is as much offering as there was twenty years ago, in relative proportion to the extent of the population. We venture to add that there has been more certainty of lasting employment during the past two years than was the case twenty years ago. Then the instances were numerous where whole branches of industry ebbed and flowed, giving eight months employment in the year. Now the employment is more regular and lasting. The mechanic of 1869 lives, if he is moderately frugal, in a house of four or five rooms, and frequently in a better style even. His walls are papered. His best floor is covered with carpet, imported perhaps. Molasses gives way to the best of syrups. His wife purchases double or triple X family flour. Meat—steak, roasts, chops, are served on an average twice a day, and generally the best. Coffee or tea, articles but little used twenty-five years ago, generally accompanies each meal. The chances are that his best room boasts stuffed seat mahogany chairs, while in all other articles of furniture there is a perceptible attempt at improvement. In the matter of dress, it has been remarked by Europeans that it is difficult at times to distinguish the poorest mechanic from the wealthiest merchant. From the sole of his foot, garnished with patent leather, to the crown of his head, surmounted by a silk hat, even to the necktie, modeled upon the latest Paris pattern, the mechanic of 1869 is ninety-nine times out of a hundred a more presentable man than his prototype of 1849. What he pays for luxuries, in many instances, would suffice to build him a house. He is not satisfied with itinerant entertainments, as the history of our amusements, our theaters, concert and lecture rooms clearly shows. We might proceed further with the parallel by contrasting the means of the two periods for moral and intellectual improvement and enjoyment, the facilities for social and business intercourse, etc., but it is unnecessary to the present purpose. The period of the greatest advancement has been while the country has had the greatest amount and most permanent policy of protection, whereby home labor and capital have been profitably employed. The most ordinary mind can make the application.

PUTTING OUT THE LIGHT.

The telegraphic dispatch from London of the 6th inst., announcing that "a correspondent of the *Times* has been prohibited from entering the Papal States," is not as perspicuous as one could desire. Its terms leave us uncertain whether the prohibition is particular or general, absolute or conditional. Many Englishmen abroad write for the *Times*; it is a feather in the cap of each individual of many thousands to be able to fetch from its place of preservation a cherished number of the Thunderer and point to a communication, with the remark, "I wrote to the *Times* on the subject." One such volunteer correspondent, from some point farther north, may have addressed a letter to "the great Organ of all," in which he said something offensive to His Holiness, and thus gained the distinction of exclusion from his temporal dominions. Or, the editor of the *Times* may have sent as his special correspondent to Rome some person whose known antecedents, or principles, or character, rendered him unacceptable to the Holy See. To exclude such a correspondent from the States could not be fairly interpreted as anything worse, perhaps, than Dr. RUSSELL's virtual exclusion from the camp of the Army of the Potomac, though it would, in fact, be something quite different. In the absence of sufficient information on the subject, the charitable spirit, which thinketh no evil, will be at great pains to imagine, in explanation of the statement, cases and contingencies adapted to bring the act into harmony with the wise and fearless attitude which, we suppose, would become the august personage who claims to be the Head of the universal church. What has he to fear either from truth or from lies? And then, assuming that he, or his counsellors, fear either truth or lies, how pitiable in its simplicity, how childish in its range the wisdom which, at the present day, resorts for protection to the expedient indicated in the dispatch.

The opportunity such a measure would afford to scoffers, also suggests a strong reason for supposing that, not *the*, but merely a correspondent of the great newspaper has been excluded from the Papal States. Those misguided people will say that there is nothing strange, or surprising in the act, and that, on the contrary, it is in perfect accordance with the uniform and generally recognized policy of the Church. They will say, moreover, that the confidence of the Pope and his counsellors in the old traditional system is so absolute, that they make no account of the change of times, or of the progress and diffusion of knowledge. But the remarkable thing is, that these assertions of unbelievers, made in contempt and derision, are frequently received by the Faithful, as expressing truths which should exalt the Pope and his counsellors in the estimation of men. The merit of truth is great—and, from a religious point of view, those are most worthy who, in the most imposing or striking way, exemplify its power over their words and actions. Looking at the subject in this spirit, we cannot but admire the energy of belief which has apparently for some time animated the present Pope, and the leading champions of the church. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity"—and in honor at the prevalence of error, these champions, when maintaining the Pope's syllabus as a whole, when denouncing our free school system, when defending the dogma of personal infallibility, when hoping to diminish the influence of a great London journal by keeping its correspondent out of the Papal States, may, as a result of these acts of faith, be really expecting a divine interposition in behalf of obscurantism. There are countries in which, during a solar eclipse, the people beat pans and kettles with all their might, to frighten away the monster whom they suppose to be trying to swallow the sun. Their theologians advise the proceeding, and take part in the religious exercise.

A POOR PROSPECT.

The confidence of the American apostles of free trade does not seem to be shared to any extent by the English iron masters. While the first keep up a constant clamor, made up principally of assertions predicting the speedy overthrow of the protectionists, the great producers of England, who are doubtless well informed concerning the condition of affairs in this country, confine themselves to the expression of doubts and fears as to the future prosperity of English manufactures. The London *Mining Journal*, one of the most reliable of its class, in a lengthy article reviewing the prospect, indulges in an exceedingly lugubrious tone. It does not perceive anything in the American horizon of a nature to cheer the English heart, as may be inferred from the following: "On every hand throughout the States there is a disposition to not only supply the wants of the country from internal resources, but likewise to secure the means of competing thoroughly with the older producers in other markets." This unfortunate condition of affairs is all the more to be deprecated from the fact that the English manufacturers had been led to anticipate something different. The *Journal* continues:

"The Premier, at the Lord Mayor's banquet, [illegible] the Alabama [illegible] world."

With a portion of these regrets, had we time at our disposal, we would sympathize. Anything that will in any manner raise the "standard of international conduct higher" than England set up for herself during the late war, which we are morally certain could not by any stretch of the imagination or process of reasoning be made to "conform consistently with the rights and duties of the whole world," will receive the cordial approval of every American. But as all this is a prelude to the reflection, "what a blessing it would be if we could only see this force of law and force of opinion operating in behalf of that great civilizer and peace observer—free trade," we are suddenly arrested in the very act of aiding by our good wishes the process of disentangling the vexed questions growing out of the Alabama exploits. If, as the tone of the journals in the interest of English manufactures suggests, the sole idea is to embarrass and discourage American industry, we would prefer to let the question remain in abeyance.

We have simply alluded to this view of the question, to show that the much vaunted progress of free trade ideas in this country is not in itself sufficient to keep alive the hopes of the English producers.

JEFFERSON DAVIS AND GENERAL CHARLES LEE.

A paragraph is going the rounds of the newspapers, in which JEFFERSON DAVIS is represented as having given suggestions to the artists employed in deforming—we mean in adorning the new Capitol. Perhaps CRAWFORD only is referred to, and his labors are really worthy of praise, they say. On the panel of the great door General WASHINGTON is depicted rising in his stirrups in the act of rebuking General LEE for failing to carry out his express orders at Monmouth. The paragraph says: "The shame thus cast upon the *Lee family* was suggested by JEFFERSON DAVIS, who, &c."

The author of the statement had apparently forgotten, at the moment, that the General LEE here introduced was not a member of *the* LEE family. RICHARD HENRY LEE and ARTHUR LEE were the prominent members of the old Virginia family, still represented among the living by General ROBERT E. LEE, not wholly unknown to fame, and, until a few years ago, represented, almost in our own neighborhood, by RICHARD HENRY LEE, D. D., long Professor in Washington College. Was General HENRY LEE, familiarly known as Light Horse HARRY, one of this family? By the way, Prof. LEE, of Washington, Pennsylvania, many years ago, edited memoirs of the two members of the family most distinguished in our Revolutionary annals. The volumes seem to be quite forgotten. The General LEE introduced in the panel picture was General CHARLES LEE, not at all connected with the Virginia family. He had been an officer in the English army, and after leaving it had seen adventures of the most romantic kind. In the American army his superiority in military knowledge and his excellent education, as well as his supposed zeal for the cause, gave him great influence, even with WASHINGTON, while in Congress there were many who received his counsels as the words of an oracle. He was at length suspected of being a traitor, and lost his power both in Congress and in the country. In our own day, papers have been discovered which prove that the suspicions with which he was regarded, were well founded. He is now known to have devised a scheme for delivering up the American army to the British.

The panel picture, we suppose, represents the meeting between him and WASHINGTON on the field of Monmouth—when the latter said to him in full retreat—"General LEE, what is the meaning of this ill-timed prudence?" LEE's answer is familiar to all—"I know no greater master of that rascally virtue than your Excellency!"

LEE's last years were spent, we think, in almost perfect solitude on his farm in Westmoreland county, Virginia, where he used to rail without restraint against WASHINGTON and those who believed in him. A favorite employment with him, we have heard, was to entertain or disgust his neighbors, in their rare interviews, by analyzing the Declaration of Independence and proving that it did not contain a single grammatical sentence.

If JEFFERSON DAVIS did suggest the subject of the picture alluded to, his motive must have been something very different from hostility to the LEE family, or a purpose to degrade them. One can imagine an object which he sought to accomplish—but it is not worth stating.

THE CUBAN CAUSE.

The proposed mass meeting of the friends of Cuba in Philadelphia has brought out expressions of opinion from distinguished Senators and Representatives, which will be regarded as specially interesting at this time. In a letter to the committee, Hon. BEN WADE expresses the opinion, that the Government has hitherto manifested too little interest in Cuban affairs. Because Spain has oppressed and robbed Cuba for two centuries, he thinks, is no reason injustice should continue forever; especially when the Cubans to-day have the same right to govern themselves as the people of the United States. He does not think the recognition of Cuba will involve us in a war with Spain. S. S. COX thinks it is a burning shame that the island should be wasted by violence, instead of shining under Republican liberty. SIMON CAMERON promises to avail himself of every proper occasion to secure the island. BUTLER expresses no opinion, preferring to let his acts speak for him. Hon. JOHN HICKMAN thinks the present government of Cuba is a disgusting monstrosity. The object aimed at by the proposed meeting, he thinks, is eminently humane and American in its character. ROSCOE CONKLING's sympathies "are very strongly with Cuba."

The Philadelphia *Post* publishes a list of letters captured from the Spanish mail, relating to military movements on the Island, from which it appears that the insurrection is on the increase, that the fact is frankly admitted that "the whole country is in the possession of the insurgents," and that official reports of Spanish victories are "colored" to suit the purposes of the authorities. The details are sickening in the extreme, clearly indicating a disposition on the part of the Spaniards to exterminate the Cubans. The few Cubans favoring the Government seem willing to "sell out for a dish of lentils," to borrow their own language.

The interest taken by the people of Philadelphia in the recognition of Cuba may be inferred from the fact that the roll of signatures to the petition to Congress to act immediately in the matter, contains upwards of 12,000 signatures, and it is predicted that by Monday it will reach 50,000.

IN all of President GRANT's writings, whether as a General in the army or as Executive of the nation, there is generally some idea of first importance expressed in almost proverbial language. As, for instance, his demand for the unconditional surrender of Fort Donelson, and in his inaugural the idea that the best way to secure the repeal of an obnoxious law is to enforce it rigidly. So in his message, in discussing the Alabama question; after noticing the rejection by the Senate of the JOHNSON-CLARENDON Convention, he says: "A sensitive people, conscious of their power, are more at ease under a great wrong wholly unatoned, than under the restraint of a settlement which satisfies neither their ideas of justice nor their grave sense of the grievances they have sustained." In the hands of many a message writer this idea would have been so elaborated as to lose all its force; but the short, terse, sententious expression of President GRANT will find its way to the judgment of every man with convincing effect.

THE following mysterious paragraph appears in a letter written from Pittsburgh to the Beaver *Argus*:

"A diversity of opinion exists here as to what the new large building in your town should be called. Some insist that it should be known as the 'Mackey Building,' others claim that it should be called the 'State Treasury Building,' [illegible] I would most respectfully urge that the latter be the name by which the 'monument of greatness' be known by the generations which are to come. By the way, do you know that one of your Beaverites and one of our prominent men here are running a distillery not an hundred miles from where I write? [illegible] the capital should not be [illegible] out of the dividends."

Touching that "large building," the name will make little difference. Perhaps no one name could be selected to signify the whole truth. For instance: If a man succeeds in drawing out of one candidate for United States Senator the sum of $13,000, and betrays him to his opponent for $20,000, and if he put the money into a "large building," a special coinage would be necessary to give it a suitable name. If several similar transactions, to say nothing of the "unexpended balance," should enter into the history of the structure, the difficulty as to a title would be increased. Our Beaver friends, we doubt not, will be found "equal to the occasion." As to the distillery, the mystery of the correspondent is great. The reference, to those who understand a certain state of facts, might be illumined, however, by the suggestion, that men who will deliberately propose to a revenue officer that, for a large consideration, he should be conveniently blind for a certain length of time, to enable them to steal $60,000 and upward, would not hesitate to rob the government if they had a chance. Perhaps they have gone into the whisky business to do it. Who knows?

A FIRM in Boston advertised for a clerk to fill a subordinate but laborious position at a salary so low that none other than a single man of the most frugal habits could possibly subsist on it, and yet they received over three hundred applications for the place, some of them from parties bringing the highest testimonials as to character, capacity and long mercantile experience. And yet young men crowd into small clerkships, in the face of such facts as these, repeated in every large city, when it is notorious that skillful mechanics can earn from $3 to $5 per day. The lowest on the list, shoemakers and tailors, earn more than seven-tenths of all those engaged in the clerkly avocations. Masons earn $5, ornamental and fresco painters more still on an average, while a printer, a carpenter, or blacksmith's exchequer on Saturday night shows double the amount of three-fourths of those employed as clerks. All this is saying nothing of the opportunities on western lands. Something ought to be done to render mechanical labor less repulsive to fastidious starvelings.

SENATOR TRUMBULL's bill divorcing Members of Congress and Senators from the appointing power, except when the appointing power requests their advice, appears to us to strike at a monstrous evil. In a large measure the civil service of the country has come to be a machine in the hands of Congressmen to enable them to provide places, sinecures frequently, for their friends and hangers-on, and to secure their own re-election. It sometimes happens that Congressmen dispose of their influence for motives even more sordid and dishonorable. Intelligent men need not be told how the offices are obtained as a general thing. The system is essentially vicious, and exceedingly detrimental to the public interest. We do not know that Senator TRUMBULL's bill is precisely right; but we do know that something should be done to reform the office-seeking and office-getting business, and, if possible, Congressmen besides. If the bill will do this, or make any considerable progress in this direction, we are for it.

GEN. GRANT's message is brief and direct. The home affairs of the nation are treated with practical good sense. Immediate resumption of specie payments is declared to be undesirable; and a postponement of a general revision of the tariff and tax laws, a renewal of the Income Tax at three per cent., and the funding of the debt are recommended. In regard to Cuba, the neutrality laws have been strictly observed, notwithstanding the ardent sympathy of our people with the insurgents. The outstanding claims of the United States against Great Britain are referred to in a tone and temper that insure the rights of our country. The remaining topics referred to are treated with thorough intelligence, and the recommendations evince a degree of statesmanship which will command the heartiest approbation of the country.

FIRMNESS of tone and an assuring confidence were among the almost instant effects of the publication of the President's message and Secretary BOUTWELL's report. Prices in Wall street stiffened and the clouds which for some time past had darkened the prospect, began to scatter. This fact should be instructive to Congress. To the Republican party it is reasonably a source of pride and gratification. An administration we have whose sole object is to do its duty honestly and continuously. Recognizing this fact, the country will support it as it supported its head as the leader of our armies.

IT is said that unless Congress interposes, the Spanish gunboats will be given up, there being no ground on which to hold them. The Peruvian Minister fails to produce evidence that the gunboats are designed to operate against the Republic he represents. Though sympathising with the Cubans struggling for freedom, the Administration is bound to observe our treaty obligations; and this is what Gen. GRANT proposes to do.

WE have repeatedly charged that Mr. MACKEY was elected Treasurer corruptly last winter, the money paid and promised to be paid being equal to about fifty thousand dollars. "DON" CAMERON was MACKEY's first friend. He knows whether or not we are correct. If we are not, let him say so, and he shall have the benefit of the denial. But let him remember that "when JAKEY votes he must have the money right in his pocket."

ANOTHER accident at Parkersburg, by which five lives were lost, adds to the already overwhelming reasons why the bridges obstructing the navigation of the Ohio should be removed. We again invite attention to the subject, and ask how long shall the commerce of the Ohio and the lives of citizens be placed at the mercy of a single track railroad? If it had twenty tracks, the question will still require an answer.

NEXT to nitro-glycerine, naphtha appears to be one of the most powerful of destructive agents known, as the facts in the case of the German brig Der Fliess fully shows. Out of 1,500 odd casks of this liquid placed in the vessel, fully a third were leaky. While anchored off Tompkinsville, Staten Island, suspecting no danger, the brig was blown to atoms. The captain's cabin served as a vent for the pent up vapor arising from the leaky casks. The crew were engaged in their respective duties, when a fire was made in the captain's cabin, the gas exploded with a terrific report, and the crew were hurled into the water, narrowly escaping death by drowning after having their flesh burned off their bones. The moral of all this is—punish persons who evade the laws governing the transportation of explosive material.

* * *

IT having been understood that many of Mr. Beecher's congregation were dissatisfied with his course with reference to the Richardson affair, and had resolved to stay away from Plymouth Church Sunday morning, in order to mark their disapprobation, much curiosity was manifested on the part of the general public to see what effect it would have on the pastor, and the edifice accordingly was more thronged even than usual, notwithstanding the rain storm. All the morning papers had reporters present. Mr. Beecher, however, made scarcely an allusion to the matter referred to, and instead of a sensational discourse preached a plain evangelical sermon from Romans, ch. vii. 24 and 25. From beginning to end the Richardson case was never mentioned.

ALLUDING to the disposition evinced by a certain class of people to predict a panic, an exchange calls attention to the fact that trade goes on. Men buy and sell just as though there were no croakers. There is not so much business in this, that or the other line of trade, and men engaged therein complain. But in the most of the branches of our trade and commerce and in the aggregate, more is doing than ever before. This the facts demonstrate. This is specially true of this locality. When it is remembered that the crops of the country never were larger than those of 1869, and that in all probability no interference will be attempted in financial matters by Congress, the croakers will have little to base their fears upon.

* * *

AN exchange says the eastern lyceum managers are complaining of the frequent disappointments to which they are subjected through the non-fulfillment of engagements by popular lecturers. Colds, hoarseness or serious indispositions, failures of trains to connect, &c., are the frequent excuses. The western lyceum managers, on the other hand, have abundant reasons to complain of the promptness with which poor lecturers come to time. A failure to connect occasionally would be a great relief to the Committees and the lecture going public, to say nothing of the saving to the treasury.

* * *

COMPARISONS are not always odious. Sometimes they are comforting and convincing, as in the instance of Mr. Mauro, of Dubuque, speaking to a resolution in the National Board of Trade. He showed that a double track road, 1,200 miles long, with trains starting every five minutes, having 3,000 trains on the track with 54,000 cars in constant motion, 365 days in the year, would have a capacity of only 15,730,000 tons each way; while the Virginia water line, with boats of 280 tons and double locks, used only 300 days in the year, would have a capacity of over 16,000,000 of tons each way.

* * *

IT is pertinently said that when our public debt is being reduced at the rate of $282,000 a day, we are going ahead well enough, and have daily demonstration of a substantially sound financial condition, of the greatest practical benefit to commerce.

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ELABORATE preparations are in progress for the meeting of the Army of the Cumberland in Indianapolis. Rosecrans, Palmer, Fairchild, Garfield and Negley are expected to deliver addresses before the Society.

THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

The Organization of the House—Fidelity to Public Interest Demanded—Notes of Warning to the Ring—The Voice of the Republican Press.

The Somerset *Herald*, edited by Ed. Scull, Esq., the Republican contestant for a seat in the Senate from the Bedford, Fulton and Somerset district, says: The organization of the next Legislature is just now eliciting a world of comment from the press of the State, and we are gratified to observe that the Republican journals without an exception, are proclaiming that a rigid scrutiny of the actions of members, and a merciless exposure of dereliction from duty, or probity, will be made, regardless of consequences. Having a majority in both branches of the Legislature, the Republican party will be measurably held accountable for the character of the legislation, and its fidelity to public interests, and while not a tithe of the accusations that have been so rife about the corruptions at Harrisburg are true, yet sufficient is known of conduct that will not bear scrutiny, to make the people jealous of the good name of the party and of the State, demand more circumspect action, and an entire purity of personal and official conduct on the part of their representatives.

The *Herald's* claim that not a tithe of the accusations of corruption at Harrisburg are true would seem to indicate that the writer either knows all about affairs at the State capital or nothing at all. He admits, however, that sufficient is known of conduct that will not bear scrutiny, and this admission destroys his attempt to "let up" on the corruptionists.

The Greenville (Mercer county) *Argus* thinks it is evident that the same old "ring masters" that organized and run the Legislature last winter, in the interests of corporations and speculators, intend to try their hands again at the same business. The reduced Republican majority given at the late elections, says the *Argus*, was a rebuke to the "rings," and a warning to the Republican party of the results that will follow a disregard of public opinion in the future. But these "ring masters" regard not the wishes of the people, nor do they care for the success of the party, except so far as it may advance their private interests. They have already proclaimed publicly that the "slates" are made up, and that they must be put through. They have decided who shall, and who shall not, be elected State Treasurer. They have announced that Mr. Mackey, having been placed upon the "slate," will certainly be elected, and that no one unfriendly to him shall be elected Speaker. It is time that this "slate" making were stopped. It is an outrage on the people, and an insult to the members of the Legislature, who are supposed to have minds of their own, and to be capable of judging of public men and measures for themselves; and, unless we are very much mistaken, they will vindicate their manhood, and show their respect for public opinion, by smashing up all "slates," and electing men to the several offices at their disposal, who are not identified with the "rings."

The Lawrence *Journal*, referring to the reported withdrawal of Mr. Webb, of Bradford, from the contest for Speaker of the House, in favor of Mr. Strang, of Tioga, says: "If this is true, we entirely withdraw any indorsement we have heretofore given Mr. Webb. There is but one way to fight corruption, and that is to the bitter end, and any withdrawal short of the final result, looks like a compromise with corruption."

Sam. Josephs, the Democratic representative from Philadelphia, whose career as a legislator is too well known, has been sending out circulars soliciting the votes of his fellow Democratic members for Speaker of the House. The leading Democratic newspapers are opposed to this move of Josephs, and denounce him as "the prince of those professional legislators who make money by making laws," one who "hires votes and pays his hirelings in open day;" in short, he has been known in the Legislature heretofore as a corruptionist of the deepest dye, always ready to join the corrupt men among the Republicans in every scheme to plunder the Treasury and put money in their own pockets. It is alleged by the papers in question, that R. B. Strang, of Tioga, who is declared to be the head and front of the Republican division of the corrupt ring last winter, will be the candidate of the Republican caucus for Speaker, and will undoubtedly be elected; and it is intimated that the object in making Mr. Josephs the Democratic candidate, is to allow the Republicans to escape from the odium that would naturally attach to the choice of such a man as Strang, by showing that the Democratic candidate was equally, if not more, dishonest and corrupt, and thus deprive the Democratic party of the political capital they would otherwise be able to make out of the bad conduct of the Republicans. The Harrisburg *Patriot* says: "Now, without the slightest personal feeling in the matter, we do solemnly protest against, and most earnestly deprecate the proposition to nominate Mr. Samuel Josephs. The opposition we make is based on public and party necessity. The people of Pennsylvania cannot afford to be again dishonored by a repetition of last winter's corruption. Still less can the Democratic party of the State afford to share with the radicals the responsibilities for mischievous legislation. Should Strang and Josephs be nominated by the respective caucuses of the two political parties, the anti-ring members will probably nominate a third candidate to be supported by all who are in favor of Legislative Reform. To this complexion must it come at last if the ring legislators hold out to the end in their determination to rule and ruin."

On the State Treasury question, the Lawrence *Journal* holds that the unexpended balance should be removed from the hands of the State Treasurer, and placed in the hands of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to be used by them in liquidating the State debt. The *Journal* says: "What far seeing business man would entrust his balance of one hundred thousand dollars to a clerk who had given bonds for but ten thousand dollars, and then allow him for compensation an amount which only the most pinching economy can render available for the keeping of soul and body together? We venture to say that there is not one business man in twenty but would pronounce such a policy ruinous in the extreme. And yet here is the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the nineteenth century, pursuing the self same policy with one of the most important offices in the State, and allowing an official to hold in trust funds ranging in amount from one to two millions, while at the same time it exacts from him bail only to the amount of $80,000, and gives him for salary the pittance of $1,700 per annum. We doubt if in any other country in the world the same spectacle is presented, combining, as it does, a littleness totally unbecoming a great Commonwealth, with a laxity in doing business, that the veriest tyro in mercantile or financial affairs would be ashamed of. There is another stand-point from which we may view the matter. Why is this unexpended balance in existence at all? All that is necessary to keep the machinery of our State government in working order is freely accorded by the people. Why, then, should they be subjected to the additional burden, light though it may be, of raising a fund for which there is no earthly use, and which only lies in the treasury to become the prey of the 'roosters' and 'pinchers' that infest our State politics? Who can answer?"

"Invisible" has been writing up the capitol. He says. "After 'doing' the ground floor, I wended my way down stairs and entered that asylum below—the pasting and folding room of the House. It is a small, narrow room, just as wide as the line of committee rooms above, and, like all other sinks of iniquity, is somewhat hidden from view. Its only furniture are a couple of long, plain, unpainted, pine tables and a few rickety chairs. There, in a room scarcely large enough for a half dozen expert newsboys to fold their little budgets of papers, the innumerable troop, augmented by the 22 'additional officers,' are supposed to have earned their $600 or $700 apiece during the three months the last Legislature sat. A greater swindle was never perpetrated by any body of men. It would have been much genteeler if they had reached into the vault of the Treasury between two days and helped themselves. It is a fact the only way the House Postmaster had of knowing who were pasters and folders was by referring to the list pasted up in his room. He never saw the half of them. Stowed away in one corner were the paste pots and brushes—ordinary pint tin cups and small paint brushes. I imagined them emblematic of the coat of arms of Mr. Strang. It is a wonder they were not franked home at the close of the session."

"Invisible" also writes: "There is a rumor that Curtin's Adjutant General, Alex. Russell, is making overtures for the same position, soon to be made vacant by the resignation of Colonel McCreary to take a seat in the lower House. If 1869 was 1866, I'm sure he could n't make it, but as it isn't by three years, I aint so sure. General Selfridge's prospects for the House Clerkship are not such as would warrant a discreet man in betting his household effects on. Stambaugh, backed by Cameron, is crowding him."

STATE NEWS.

The Titusville *Herald* has donned a new dress of types, and looks as attractive as new type, fine paper and good press work can make it. The amount and variety of reading matter has also been increased, and Messrs. Bloss Bros. & Coggswell seem determined to obtain the patronage they certainly deserve.

William M. Lloyd & Co., of Altoona, have opened a banking house in Bedford, and placed it in charge of Mr. George T. Huff, an experienced banker, who is prominently mentioned as a candidate for State Treasurer.

Mr. Charles R. Paxton, of Bloomsburg, Pa., has purchased a portion of the Exeter estate, in Loudon county, Va., comprising 765 acres, for $50,000. This is said to be one of the finest estates in the rich and flourishing county of Loudon.

Dr. Adee Monroe, an itinerant "electro-magnetic physician" from Philadelphia, has been committed to jail in Williamsport, in default of bail, to answer a charge of outraging a Miss Kate Johnson, while under his professional care.

Christian Manful, a contractor on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, who last summer shot and killed Michael Roach, who had abused the family of Manful and stolen his horses, was tried in the Somerset county court last week and acquitted.

The Westerman Iron Works, at Sharon, stopped very suddenly and unexpectedly at an early hour on Monday, 29th ult. It appears that one of the "puddlers" has been working at lower wages than such laborers usually receive. His fellow workmen, fearing that this would be detrimental to their interests, demanded his immediate discharge, and threatened that, in case their wishes were not gratified, they themselves would quit work. The Superintendent, comprehending the situation of affairs, summarily dismissed the discontented ones, hence the stoppage.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says: We learn that the employees of the Ohio and Chesapeake Nail Works, Paxton Furnace, Fairview Iron Works and Pennsylvania Steel Works have suspended work in consequence of a reduction in their wages.

Monday night, 29th ult., the Lehigh Furnace Company's furnaces at Copley were burned. No cause is assigned for the fire. The loss is considerably over $100,000. There was no insurance.

An organized effort is being made by the members of the Bar of Adams and adjoining counties to prosecute the claims for damages sustained in the border counties during the war. A meeting of the Gettysburg Bar was held recently, and steps taken to move efficiently in the work. D. Wills, Wm. McClean and J. C. Neely, Esqs., were appointed a committee to complete the arrangements.

The Blair county *Radical*, published at Altoona, says: "On Saturday morning the *Vindicator* office in this city was closed, the publisher and hands abandoning the concern to take positions upon the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*."

It is said the suspension of Reed & Schell, in Bedford, has very seriously incommoded the people there who were fortunate enough to have money to deposit in bank and unfortunate enough to have it in that one. Among the losers are the County Treasurer, who loses $8,000, the Treasurer of the School Board who loses all deposited for the payment of teachers, and the well-to-do men generally.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1869.

River and Harbor Appropriations.

General Humphreys, Chief of the Engineer Corps of the Army, recommends the following appropriations for the next fiscal year, to be expended on Western harbors and rivers and other works: Jefferson Barracks, $11,000; Superior City harbor, $75,000; Ontonagon, $80,000; Eagle, $100,000; Marquette, $91,000; Green Bay, $17,500; Manitowoc, $31,000; Sheboygan, $34,000; Milwaukee, $54,000; Racine, $40,000; Manistee, $70,000; Bentwater, $40,000; Muskegan, $30,000; Grand Haven, $100,000; Black Lake, $10,000; Saugatuc, $75,000; South Haven, $72,000; St. Joseph's, $80,000; St. Mary's river, $60,000; Au Sable river, $20,000; St. Clair flats, $15,000; Cleveland harbor, $39,000; Conneaut harbor, $45,900; survey of upper Mississippi and building of snag boats, $76,000; Wisconsin harbor, $115,000; improvement of the Minnesota river, $15,000; Rock Island bridge, $300,000; improvement of Des Moines rapids on Gen. Wilson's plan, $1,000,000; Rock Island rapids, $300,000; improvement of mouth of the Mississippi $365,000; enlargement of the Louisville and Portland canal $450,000; general work on the Mississippi, Missouri and Arkansas rivers, including boats, $750,000; improvement of Ohio river, $389,000; survey of northern and northwestern lakes, $159,000; survey and improvement of Illinois river, $300,000.

Army Property in Pittsburgh.

General Meade, in a communication to the War Department, recommends the sale of the property at Pittsburgh belonging to the Quartermaster's department. He says it is no longer of use and estimates its value at one hundred thousand dollars.

The Circuit Judgeships.

The nominations of Circuit Judges laid before the Senate to-day are pretty generally commented upon with favor. The only ones toward which any decided opposition is shown are Woodruff of the Circuit comprising New York, Vermont and Connecticut, and Yeaman for the Circuit including Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Michigan. No special obligation is made to either of these gentlemen, except by strong friends of other candidates. Woods, for the Southern Circuit, was originally from Ohio, and is now one of the Supreme Judges of Alabama. McKennan, for the Circuit of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey, lives in the western part of Pennsylvania. He is a man of high character and a lawyer of fine abilities. The Maryland appointment, Pearle, was recommended by nearly the whole bar of the State, and he is spoken of as a lawyer of sound judgment and wide learning. Yeaman was formerly in Congress from Kentucky, but for some years has been our Minister to Denmark. Sawyer's appointment is warmly indorsed by most of the Pacific men in Congress. Drummond and Shipley seem to be entirely satisfactory. Woodruff is now one of the New York judges of the Court of Appeals, something too old, perhaps, but a man of learning, integrity and soundness. The friends of the other candidates may strive to defeat him, but are not likely to succeed. The nomination for the Eighth Circuit, comprising Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Arkansas, Nebraska and Kansas was not made.

The Reorganization of the Army.

Gen. Halleck having been called on in October last by the War Department for his views as to the reorganization of the army, replies with a substantial indorsement of the scheme prepared last winter by Gen. Garfield. His language is as follows:

"I recommend that the Adjutant and Inspector General's Departments be united into one; that Quartermaster, Subsistence and Pay Departments be united into one; that the Ordnance and Artillery be consolidated into a single corps, and that the regimental organization of the artillery be dispensed with. The consolidation of corps should not be made violently, but gradually, in order to protect as far as practicable the official standing of the officers interested. I also recommend that a sufficient number of artillery companies be organized out of the colored infantry to garrison the gulf fortifications most subject to yellow fever, the colored race being much less liable than whites to fatal attacks of that disease. I do not think that the rank and file of the army can at present be further reduced. All troops not absolutely required on our northern frontier and to garrison seacoast defences, are needed in the Indian country. Unless such military forces are maintained, the sales of public lands will be retarded, pioneer settlements will be broken up, and expensive Indian wars result. It is more economical to preserve peace by a military force on these frontiers than to carry on Indian wars, which invariably follow a withdrawal or reduction of such force."

Our Alaska Possession.

Gen. Geo. H. Thomas's report of his trip to Alaska will appear among the documents accompanying the Secretary of War's report. An abstract of its more important features was given in this correspondence about two months ago. The following is what he says about our new possessions:

"I see no immediate prospect of the country being settled up. The climate is too rigid; there is too much rain and too little sun for agricultural purposes. At most of the posts there are gardens, in which are raised radishes, turnips, lettuce and other watery vegetables, and fair potatoes, though they will not keep any time. The moisture of the climate is so great these vegetables continue to grow, but do not ripen. The same difficulty has attended all attempts to raise barley, oats or wheat. The stalk grows green and rank, but the seed does not come to maturity or ripen. There is comparatively little land suitable for agriculture. The soil is an alluvial sandy loam, very rich and deep, but the summer, though pleasant while it lasts, is not long enough for successful farming. Though the timber is of the finest quality and in many places conveniently located, still the supply in Oregon, Washington Territory and British Columbia, is especially good and abundant, and much better located for a market. The fishing banks along the northwestern coast of the Aleutian peninsula and islands are very extensive and bountiful, and salmon abound in all the streams. There are many localities of coal, but the remarks as to the supply of timber around the Puget Sound country will also apply to coal. The United States Coast Survey reports a large deposit of iron ore, and gold has been reported in several places, but not found in quantities to encourage miners."

The Revision of the Tariff.

The Ways and Means Committee spent to-day's session almost wholly on questions connected with the iron tariff, and went over about the same grounds as that traversed yesterday. Mr. Allison tried to get pig iron reduced from nine dollars to five dollars per ton but failed. Mr. Schenck's proposition to fix the rate at six dollars was also rejected, and seven dollars was finally again agreed upon as the figure for the new bill. The new classification of bar iron was then adopted, by which the rate on half of each former grade is raised to the rate of the next higher grade. The iron men speak of this as an ingenious way of raising the tariff without seeming to do so. A proposition to call in special Commissioner Wells for consultation while at work on the bill, was defeated by Kelly and other advocates of increased duties.

Retrenchment Committee's Investigations.

The Retrenchment Committee is not likely to report on its summer examinations till after the holiday recess. Their inquiries resulted in a recommendation to Secretary Boutwell, which he at once adopted. They found that great frauds were undoubtedly being committed in the shipment of goods from New York to San Francisco, by way of the Isthmus, through the regulations respecting the seals used on packages, and Senator Patterson, for the Committee, advised new regulations of an entirely different character from those in force, and these were at once drawn up and have quite recently been promulgated. They will withdraw great temptations, and unquestionably result in considerable saving to the Government.

Political Disabilities.

The discussion in the Senate to-day indicated considerable disposition to deal with the question of removing political disabilities from Southerners in a way different from that now pursued, by turning the examination of applications over to District Judges, or establishing a tribunal in each of the Southern States for that purpose. No action was taken, however, and the Senate finally passed a bill for the benefit of about one thousand persons. It passed the House last spring and now goes to the President for his signature.

Sulphuric Acid as an Explosive.

Mr. Stevenson, of Ohio, to-day presented a petition signed by nearly all the manufacturers of sulphuric acid in the country, and by a number of prominent chemists asking for an amendment of the law which, as they claim, erroneously places that acid in the category of explosive substances, and consequently imposes many unjust restrictions upon its transportation. The petition was referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Nominations Confirmed.

The nominations of Secretaries Robeson and Belknap were confirmed to-day without opposition. Those of the new bureau chiefs in the Navy Department will probably be reached at the next executive session of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1869.

THE PHILADELPHIA CUBA PETITION.

The friends of Cuba have made their point. Senator Cameron presented the Philadelphia mammoth petition. As he read the names of some of the signers, and unrolled the seemingly endless list (30,000 names), the galleries evinced more than common interest. It is said a similar petition from New York, and quite as large, will be presented to the House next week. Over two thousand signatures are already appended to the Washington petition. There is some disappointment felt by the Cubans at the view the President takes of the position of affairs on the island. They know that he is personally very sympathetic, and they have undiminished faith in the encouraging words he has privately spoken to them. In the extremely diplomatic and guarded language of the message there is nothing averse to the patriot cause, and the principle laid down by Henry Clay, that recognition in itself is no cause of war, being an unquestionable attitude of sovereignty, if not absolutely asserted, is sharply suggested.

POSTAL CHANGES.

The following Postoffice changes in Pennsylvania have been made:

West Finley, Washington county—Samuel Grum, vice John Burns, resigned.

New Scottsville, Beaver county—Samuel Shafer, vice John McAfee, resigned.

Jefferson Furnace, Clarion county—R. F. Blair, vice C. Sheffler, resigned.

Salisbury, Chester county—Jesse Windle, vice J. C. Trubley, resigned.

Broad Axe, Montgomery county—H. Hobensack, vice F. White, resigned.

Bower, Clearfield county—C. A. Robaugh, vice Lewis Smith, resigned.

Williston, Potter county—G. W. Witters, vice Miss Roberts, resigned.

Belmont, Lancaster county—C. Clement Eby, vice Jacob Eby, deceased.

Warren Center, Bradford county—Joseph F. Cooper, vice Robert Cooper, deceased.

CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate to-day confirmed the nominations of General Belknap, Secretary of War, and Mr. Robeson, as Secretary of the Navy. All other nominations were referred to appropriate committees.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.

The following nominations were sent in to-day for Circuit Judges: George F. Shipley, of Maine, for First Circuit; Lewis B. Woodruff, of New York, Second Circuit; Wm. McKennan, of Pennsylvania, Third Circuit; George A. Pearle, of Maryland, Fourth Circuit; Wm. B. Woods, of Alabama, Fifth Circuit; George A. Yeaman, of Kentucky, Sixth Circuit; Thomas Drummond, of Illinois, Seventh Circuit; Lorenzo Sawyer, Ninth Circuit. The other nominations were of appointments made during the recess, including thirty-seven to the Treasury, sixty-four to the navy, 129 to the War Departments, eight to the Attorney General's office, and one, John M. Marshall to be First Assistant Postmaster General.

NO MORE INDIAN TREATIES.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs to-day agreed to report a bill looking to the termination of all treaties with Indians, and providing for them by special legislation from time to time.

PORT ADMIRAL AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Rear Admiral Craven has been ordered to assume the duties of Port Admiral, at San Francisco, on the first of January.

INDIAN DISPUTES.

By direction of the Secretary of War, in cases where a question arises as to the ownership of animals in possession of Indians, the commanding officer of the nearest military post is to act in conjunction with the Indian agent in charge of said Indians in an investigation of the question.

GOVERNMENT OFFICER MURDERED IN MISSOURI.

The following telegram was received at the Internal Revenue office to-day:

SEDALIA, MO., December 8.—Deputy Marshal Moses was shot dead on the fourth instant by Felix Whiteworth, in Camden county. Please instruct the Marshal to send a force immediately.

MACK J. LEAMING, Assessor.

Commissioner Delano has telegraphed for fuller particulars.

ILLICIT STILLS DESTROYED.

Collector Galbraith, of the First Tennessee District, reports to Commissioner Delano the destruction of several illicit stills in Jefferson county. This county is said to be infested with outlaws engaged in violating the Government revenue laws. The revenue authorities did not succeed in making any arrests, as their approach was heralded by parties in collusion with the outlaws, and the illicit distillers made haste to leave.

MILITARY PRISONERS RELEASED.

An order has been issued from the War Department, directing the release of Mathew D. Taylor, sentenced by military Court a year ago to four years confinement in the penitentiary at Huntsville, Texas.

PERSONAL.

Thomas Drummond, of Illinois, who was to-day nominated for Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit under the new law, is the only District Judge selected for Circuit Judge. The nomination of Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit will soon be made. The choice is said to be between Ben. Loan, of Missouri, and Judge Dillon, of Iowa.

THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE.

The committee appointed by the Virginia Legislature to visit Washington and urge upon Congress the immediate admission of that State, had an interview to-day with Gen. Butler, Chairman of the Committee on Reconstruction. The interview was satisfactory to both parties, and the committee felt assured their mission would be successful, but that a pledge will be required as a preliminary that the State Constitution will be carried out in good faith.

NOMINATIONS.

Among the nominations sent to the Senate were Charles J. Folger, Assistant Treasurer, and Geo. W. Palmer, Appraiser at New York. Also the following in the Navy Department: Augustus L. Case, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance; Daniel Ammen, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks; Edward T. Dunn, Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing; W. N. Wood, Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

THE NATIONAL LABOR CONVENTION

Of colored people adopted a resolution that its President and Vice President be delegated to wait upon the President of the United States and tender the congratulations of the colored laborers of the United States.

NO NOMINATION

Has yet been made for the vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. The choice undoubtedly lies between Attorney General Hoar and Judge Erskine, of Georgia.

COIN IN THE TREASURY.

The Secretary of the Treasury at present has on hand about $71,000,000 in coin, and the receipts from customs during the balance of this month are estimated at $10,600,000, which will make a total of $81,600,000. The weekly sales of gold, however, will reduce this amount six or eight millions. On the 31st inst. about $32,000,000 will be required to pay semi-annual interest on bonds of 1881 and 5-20s falling due on the first proximo, which will leave a balance on hand of about forty-four or forty-six millions at that time.

THE SPANISH GUNBOAT QUESTION.

Is in course of settlement by diplomacy. The Spanish Minister to-day presented a paper to the Secretary of State, giving a pledge that the gunboats shall not be the means of carrying on the war with Peru, or any other nation with which the United States is at peace. This communication is somewhat similar to that heretofore presented by the Peruvian Minister to remove the objections of Spain, the effect of which was the release of the two monitors purchased in the United States for the Peruvian Government. The Peruvian Minister, on receipt of a copy of the paper, expressed himself satisfied with the explanation and assurance of the Spanish Minister, therefore the cause of detention of the Spanish gunboats is removed. District Attorney Pierrepont has already, or soon will be, made acquainted with these diplomatic proceedings, and it is anticipated his action in the premises will forthwith lead to an order for the release of the gunboats, when they will be transferred by the contractor to the authorities of Spain. The Spanish Minister takes a view similar to that of the Peruvian Minister to Mr. Seward nearly two years since, namely: That the war between Spain and Peru and other South American Republics long ago ceased, with no intention to renew hostilities. This is the present condition of affairs, although not formally announced in the communications between these governments, but when the representatives of Spain, Peru, Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador assemble in Washington next January in joint conference, it is confidently expected they will give emphasis to the fact that peace has been restored among them, with a desire to cultivate the most friendly relations.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1869.

SENATE.

On motion of Mr. ANTHONY, the standing committees were announced by the clerk. The following Senators constitute the several committees named below, after the alterations made this morning:

Foreign Relations—Messrs. Sumner, Cameron, Harlan, Morton, Patterson, Schurz and Casserly.

Appropriations—Morrill of Maine, Wilson, Cole, Sprague, Sawyer, Poole and Stockton.

Naval Affairs—Cragin, Anthony, Nye, Drake, Scott, Osborn and Stockton.

Patents—Willey, Ferry, Carpenter, Norton and Hamilton.

Library—Cattell, Howe and Morrill of Maine.

To Audit and Control Contingent Expenses—Ferry, Edmunds and Davis.

Other committees are without alteration.

The following petitions were presented and referred:

By Mr. EDMUNDS, of C. D. Boutwell, of Texas, setting forth that the petitioner had been a rebel and got sick of it, and now wanted to be relieved from all disabilities.

By Mr. SUMNER, of W. Cornell Jewett, asking Congress, as a means of vindicating the dignity and sovereignty of the nation, to suspend the working of the French cable on American soil until France authorized the landing of a cable from America on French soil, and guaranteed that all American dispatches should freely pass over France through the hands of American agents.

Mr. SUMNER remarked that there was now upon the table of the Senate a bill which met the prayer of the petitioner, and he proposed calling it up at an early day.

By Mr. HAMLIN, a memorial from the officers of the United States Navy, representing that injustice had been done by the special promotion over them of many of their juniors in the service under the act of July 25, 1866, and praying Congress to redress the great wrong under which they believe themselves to suffer, by restoring them to the positions to which they have been relatively entitled.

Mr. HAMLIN said he had certain knowledge of the facts in some of the cases referred to, and had no doubt that simple justice demanded at the hands of Congress reparation for the wrong committed. He asked the earnest and candid attention of the Committee on Naval Affairs to the subject.

Mr. EDMUNDS gave notice that on Friday he would ask for the consideration of House resolution regulating hours of labor of government laborers, workmen and mechanics. A resolution was passed at the last session in relation to the hours of labor without touching the matter of compensation. The Attorney General had given a decision on that law, but the heads of departments had not executed the law in accordance with that decision. The law itself, he believed, was not satisfactory to workmen. At least, it was working no profit to them, but tended to demoralize any government institution in which laborers were employed.

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced a joint resolution relating to an amendment to the Constitution, providing that whenever satisfactory evidence is furnished to the Secretary of State that three-fourths of all the legislatures have ratified any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, he shall forthwith proclaim the fact of such ratification, and if it shall appear that the legislature of a State has ratified an amendment proposed as aforesaid, any other action by the legislature of that State, as to such amendment, shall be void and disregarded by the Secretary of State.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved the reference of the bill to the Committee on Judiciary, and expressed the hope that it would receive early consideration, which, for obvious reasons, it deserved. It was so referred.

Mr. SHERMAN introduced a bill to promote international coinage, fixing the weight of the gold coin of five dollars at 124.920 Troy grains, equivalent to a coin of twenty five francs. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARPENTER introduced a bill in relation to the rights of members of Congress, providing that nothing in any act of Congress shall hereafter be construed to prevent any member of Congress from practicing as attorney, solicitor or counsel in the prosecution or defense of any cause, claim or proceeding in any judicial court of the United States.

Mr. FERRY introduced a bill to repeal all laws requiring what is known as the administration of the test oath. He said the proposition to remove the disabilities imposed under the Fourteenth Amendment would fall short of the accomplishment of the object designed, unless accompanied by the repeal of the test oath. The necessity for legislation of this character had now gone by. The policy of the removal of those disabilities was one which the experience of last summer, and the universal experience of all parties in the Southern States, had decided to be a policy that ought to be adopted by Congress, and as the Republican party originally enacted these laws for the security of the Government and preservation of the lives of the nation, so now, when the necessity had gone by, it seemed to the speaker best that the same party should remove them. The bill was referred.

Mr. CATTELL introduced a bill giving consent of the United States to the erection of a bridge across the Delaware river between Philadelphia and Camden. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution calling upon the Committee on Military Affairs to consider whether any further legislation is needed to secure for all colored citizens who have served in the army of the United States complete equality with all other citizens in the enjoyment of military bounty. He had understood a statute existed by which former slaves who had served in the army were excluded from the enjoyment of that bounty. As it had been the object to give equal rights to all who served under our flag, he asked the early attention of the Military Committee to the complete accomplishment of that object.

Mr. CAMERON offered the following:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interest, any information he may have with regard to the civil and political condition of Cuba.

Adopted.

The resolution previously offered by Mr. RAMSEY, asking for information concerning the presence of Hon. Wm. McDougal in Dakotah Territory and the opposition of the inhabitants to his assumption of the office of Governor, was taken up.

Mr. HOWARD said he thought the resolution unnecessary, inasmuch as the interests of the United States were not involved in the local disturbance which had arisen in the Red River country. The disturbance was confined to one of the remote possessions of the Dominion of Canada. He had been informed that McDougal had received no appointment to exercise authority in the Red River country, but was acting as a private citizen, though having received an assurance of future appointment as Governor of that portion of British America known as the Red River country. Many settlers on the northern border of Minnesota were perhaps greatly dissatisfied with the arrangement recently made, by which the Hudson Bay Company had sold out their interests, and one great object with them was the erection of a local government of their own to look after their own special interests. The difficulty was apparently purely of a local nature.

Mr. RAMSEY said the portion of the people he represented enjoyed considerable trade with the Red River country, and that the people of the latter locality were in a state of discontent and revolution. The United States was represented there by a collector of revenue and other officials, and it seemed important that the exact condition of affairs there should be ascertained. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. THURMAN offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate whether, since the last session of Congress, any negotiations have taken place or have been proposed between this Government and the Government of Great Britain in respect to a reciprocity treaty or reciprocity laws on the subject of trade and commerce between the United States and Canada, and to communicate any correspondence that may have taken place between the Executive and Government of Great Britain or that of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. SUMNER suggested the insertion of the usual clause, "if in the opinion of the President the information be consistent with the public interest." The resolution so modified was agreed to.

The resolution of Mr. STEWART, requesting the Judiciary Committee to inquire if any States were denying to any class of persons equal protection of the laws in violation of treaty obligations and the Fourteenth Amendment was agreed to.

The resolution of Mr. DRAKE providing that hereafter the floor of the Senate shall be cleared of persons not entitled to its privileges ten minutes before the meeting of the body, was agreed to, 19 to 17.

The bill to relieve certain persons therein named for disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution came up. It contains the names of four hundred persons.

Mr. SUMNER moved to refer it to the Committee, but after discussion withdrew the motion, when the bill passed.

A joint resolution for the relief of persons engaged in the late rebellion, providing that upon the final adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment all disabilities shall cease, was taken up.

Mr. STEWART said he believed the time had arrived to make the declaration here proposed. No danger need be apprehended on the immediate removal of these disabilities, but on the contrary continued imposition would have the effect which Congress desired to prevent—that of throwing the former rebel States into rebel hands. That such was the effect was evinced from day to day, because besides themselves having power to vote, they were enabled to excite the sympathy of their neighbors by appealing to them to aid in removing their disabilities. Now that universal suffrage had been secured, it would be politic to close the reconstruction with universal amnesty. In the matter of individual cases of relief there was much room for imposition upon the generosity of Congress, and the disabilities of many persons had been removed upon unfair and incorrect representations to members of Congress. Necessarily it was impossible for Congress to exercise an intelligent discrimination in passing on these cases in detail, and the more advisable course was to deal with them as a class. By means of this declaration that the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment would relieve disabilities now imposed, the cause of reconstruction would be strengthened, and the adoption of the amendment itself naturally hastened.

The Senate went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. PALMER introduced a bill to authorize the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company to change the established route in Nebraska. Referred to the Pacific Railroad Committee.

Mr. LAWRENCE offered a resolution directing the Committee on Public Lands to inquire into the expediency of amending the homestead law so as to authorize ex-soldiers and seamen of the United States to secure one hundred and sixty acres of land, instead of eighty acres, as now authorized for homestead out of the alternate sections of land embraced in railroad and other grants owned by the Government. Adopted.

Mr. DAVIS introduced a bill to abolish the duties on coal. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Several bills for the removal of political disabilities were introduced and referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. SARGENT introduced a bill to procure and disseminate information of the extent of cereal and other crops of foreign countries. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture. It requires American consuls residing in countries which raise cereal or other crops that come in competition with American products in the markets of the world, to furnish a quarterly statement of the condition of the crops to the State Department, which is to furnish them to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who is required to put them in a condensed form in his monthly circular, corrected by any accurate information in his possession. The object of the bill is to furnish information to farmers to enable them to sell or hold their crops in foreign markets, most of the information now obtainable being drawn from English sources and colored by the necessities of that country.

Other bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. STRICKLAND, to extend the Portage Lake and Lake Superior Railroad to Keweenaw Bay, Mich.

By Mr. FINKELBURG, concerning duties on imports, proposing a periodical reduction of ten per cent.

By Mr. CAVANAUGH, of Montana, to provide for the election of certain Territorial officers by the people.

By Mr. MUNGEN, to exempt from taxation property of ex soldiers and sailors of the United States to the same extent as property of bondholders.

By Mr. O'NEILL, for the restoration of Captain Dominec Lynch to the active list of the navy.

By Mr. McCRARY, to amend the act for the consolidation of United States statutes.

The SPEAKER made a proposition to the House in reference to the assignment to committees of the recently admitted members. At present it was not in his power to assign them to committees, and he suggested that he be authorized to assign them as tenth members to such committees as he might deem desirable.

Mr. BROOKS, of New York, expressed the hope that the Speaker would improve the opportunity by adding a Democratic member to the Committee on Elections.

Mr. FARNSWORTH suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SCHENCK did not favor that suggestion, because it would be apt to cause delay, and would look to something like a permanent arrangement, instead of a temporary one.

Mr. FARNSWORTH did not wish to be understood as objecting to the Speaker's proposition, but he reminded the House that there were a great many of the committee's of the House that were obsolete except on paper, and that never met and had no place of meeting, and he thought it better that the whole subject of committees be revised by the Committee on Rules.

Mr. WELKER offered a resolution giving the Speaker the authority suggested.

Mr. DAWES favored referring the whole matter to the Committee on Rules. It did not seem to him quite right to leave the matter so entirely to the Speaker. It was a delicate matter, and he supposed the Speaker would prefer to have it arranged by the Committee on Rules.

The SPEAKER said he had no desire in the matter at all, other than what might be indicated by the House.

Mr. ELDRIDGE suggested that the difficulty might be obviated by the resignation of members of committees who are now serving on more than one.

Mr. BENJAMIN thought the whole matter premature until after the admission of the Virginia, Mississippi and Texas members.

Finally the subject was referred to the Committee on Rules.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. DAWES in the Chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the bill to provide for taking the ninth census, to fix the number of members of the House of Representatives and provide for the future apportionment among the States.

Mr. STOKES, chairman of the Census Committee, commended the industry of the sub-committee which sat during the recess, and said he would leave the management and engineering of the bill to the chairman of the sub-committee. Mr. Garfield, of Ohio.

Mr. GARFIELD proceeded to state succinctly the points of the bill, and the machinery devised therein for taking the census, explaining wherein and why it differed from that by which the census of 1860 was taken.

In reply to questions put by Messrs. Butler of Massachusetts, Clark of Kansas, and others, in regard to representation in Congress, Mr. GARFIELD said the present organization or numbering of the House began on the 4th of March, 1863, and manifestly will run until the same day in March, 1873. The census to be taken next June ought, of course, to be completed, so far as the taking is concerned, by the first of July. We shall not know until next fall what the basis of representation will be, and as a matter of course no redistricting of States can be made until that time. The Committee agreed this morning to fill up the blank for the number of members with 300.

In reference to information to be obtained from railroad companies, Mr. GARFIELD remarked that now that the negro question had been got rid of, the next great fight would be with these great corporations. Congress should at least know what they were doing with the national wealth in their hands. In reply to a question by Mr. Peters, he stated with the whole number of members fixed at 300, no State would suffer the loss of a member, but with 275 fixed as the number, two or three of the New England States would suffer.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, inquired whether any arrangement was made in the bill for obtaining telegraph statistics.

Mr. GARFIELD replied that there was not, except as regarding the telegraph connected with the railroads. The committee had prepared an additional schedule for that purpose, and had it ready to offer in case the House desired it, but the committee had become alarmed at the size of the schedules, and left it out.

Mr. HALDEMAN, another member of the Census Committee, expressed his views on the subject, dwelling on the importance of a full and complete census embracing property and income. He thought it time to ask whether classes were not being favored in this country, and whether our systems of income tariff and internal revenue were not making sores on the body politic. With that idea he would at the proper time propose an additional column in the proper schedule for a return of weekly income from wages salaries and professions.

The Committee then proceeded to discuss and consider the bill by sections. Mr. MUNGEN moved to amend the third section by limiting the term of service of census employees to two years, instead of three. Rejected.

Mr. DAVIS moved an amendment to the same point by inserting the words "or whenever their services shall cease to be required." Adopted.

After progressing as far as the fourth section of the bill, the Committee rose, and the House, at 3 o'clock adjourned.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Opening of the Ecumenical Council.

ROME, December 8.—The Ecumenical Council was opened to-day by the Pope. The weather was unfavorable, rain falling at intervals throughout the day, but an enormous crowd filled the Vatican and lined the streets through which the members of the Council passed. The Pope, followed by seven hundred Bishops, proceeded to the hall of the Council amid the ringing of bells and thundering of cannon from the forts of St. Angelo and Mount Aventine. The Holy Father is in fine health. The galleries of the hall of the Council were occupied by sovereigns and Princes now in Rome by members of the Corps Diplomatique and other notables. The ceremonies excelled in grandeur and magnificence any which have taken place in Rome within the past century.

Spirit of the English Press.

LONDON, December 8.—The *Times*, in an article on American finances, says the fact that repudiation has been practiced by all the States except Massachusetts, associated with the theory which widely obtains in the Union that gold debts may be paid in paper injures American securities. Offers of conversion will arouse distrust, and defer success. The *Daily News*, commenting on Gen Grant's statement of the Alabama question in his message, infers that Americans want indemnity for their feelings rather than for their trade and pockets. This may be given; diplomacy may oil this friction, and remove a sentimental grievance without compromising British interests or pride. The continental press generally applaud Mr. Boutwell's plan for the resumption of specie payments.

Dr. Temple's Appointment Confirmed.

The appointment of Rev. Dr. Temple as Bishop of Exeter has been confirmed, notwithstanding the protests and arguments against it.

The Peabody Escort.

It is reported the United States steamer Plymouth will not accompany the remains of Mr Peabody to America, but return to the Mediterranean.

A Congress of Deists.

FLORENCE, December 8.—A Congress of Deists has assembled in Naples.

No Special Representatives.

LONDON, December 8.—No power has a special representative at the Ecumenical Council.

Capacity of the Suez Canal.

LONDON, December 8.—Shallow iron steamers are building on the Tye for the navigation of the Suez Canal. Mr. Ashburn, who sailed through the canal in the yacht Cambria writes that after taking careful soundings he is of opinion that no vessel drawing nineteen feet of water can pass through it.

General Banks in Paris.

PARIS, December 8.—Gen. N. P. Banks has arrived here.

Corps Legislatif.

PARIS, December 8.—In the Corps Legislatif to-day, M. Forcade de la Roquette, Minister of the Interior, made a speech in favor of the verification of the election of M. Dreaile, the Government candidate for the Corps. He declared the Government defended the country against evil doctrines, and the country indorsed it. In towns only disorders prevailed. He was in favor of putting down the evil doers who had disgraced Paris and other towns during the late election. He concluded by assuring the deputies that the government wished to establish liberty, but with prudence and firmness. The speech was warmly applauded. The right of M. Dreaile to st was sustained, 171 affirmatives, 77 negatives.

ANOTHER STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

Steamer Rebecca Wrecked on the Pier of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Bridge at Parkersburg—Several Lives Lost.

WHEELING, December 8.—The Wheeling and Parkersburg packet Rebecca collided with pier No. 4 of the new railroad bridge at Parkersburg last night at one o'clock, and sunk immediately. Thirteen lives were lost, supposed to be deck hands. All the passengers are reported saved. Full particulars not yet received.

WHEELING, December 8.—Later reports from Parkersburg reduce the loss of life to four or five. The names are not yet ascertained. It seems the boat struck a coal barge, sunk by colliding with the bridge pier, and went down in twenty feet of water. She is probably a total loss. The passengers were all saved.

Marine disasters are of daily occurrence. Within a week eight coal barges have been sunk by colliding with piers of the new bridge at Bellair and Parkersburg, and a number of similar accidents are reported to have occurred at the Steubenville bridge.

WHEELING, W. Va., December 8.—Five bodies have been recovered from the wreck of the steamer Rebecca up to this hour, namely: Sanford Karr, John Karr, Hentborn and Lon and one name unknown. These are all that are positively known to be lost, though it is reported and believed six or eight more are missing. The cabin passengers barely escaped with their lives, losing their baggage. The boat was valued at $30,000, and insured for $12,000 in Wheeling and Cincinnati companies.

Weekly Commercial.

EXECUTION

of

ZACHARY TAYLOR HOCKINBERRY,

[illegible]

RAILROAD CASUALTY.

Collision on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

ONE MAN KILLED AND SEVERAL INJURED.

Complete List of the Casualties, &c.

[illegible]

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

[illegible]

FINANCE AND TRADE.

[illegible]

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

[illegible]

PITTSBURGH OIL MARKET.

[illegible]

Iron and Nails.

[illegible]

Sheep Market East.

[illegible]

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PIG IRON AND BLOOM MARKET.

[illegible]

Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad.

[illegible]

Lake Superior Ore.

[illegible]

Charcoal.

[illegible]

Anthracite.

[illegible]

Coke.

[illegible]

Blooms.

[illegible]

IRON AND NAILS.

[illegible]

PITTSBURGH DRY GOODS MARKET.

[illegible]

PITTSBURGH GLASS MARKET.

[illegible]

COPPER MARKET.

[illegible]

TIN PLATES, ETC.

[illegible]

STEEL MARKET.

[illegible]

PITTSBURGH DRUG MARKET.

[illegible]

PITTSBURGH HIDE AND LEATHER MARKET.

[illegible]

LUMBER MARKET.

[illegible]

CORDAGE MARKET.

[illegible]

CRACKER MARKET.

[illegible]

WHITE LEAD, PUTTY, ETC.

[illegible]

BROOM MARKET.

[illegible]

TOBACCO MARKET.

[illegible]

BUILDERS' HARDWARE.

[illegible]

Hops.

[illegible] extent, but there is no prospect of our wanting any Hops from that quarter this season, and think the chances are that Germany will want a few of our hops before she is favored with another crop. Receipts of the week, 9,105 bales. Total receipts of the season, 65,925 bales. Export clearances last week, 1,854 bales. Total exports of the season from the port of New York, 20,562 bales. Our London correspondent gives us the following, under date of Nov. 20: 'Our market during the week has been very quiet for home growths, prices being, in a great measure, sustained by the scanty supply on offer. New Americans continued to be freely taken up at the commencement of the week at prices ranging from 120s to 130s, but the demand within the last two or three days has been hardly so strong, owing partly to the increase of arrivals and the expectation of large shipments reaching this side. American yearlings are in moderate request at fully late rates, average to fine qualities ranging from 48s to 60s, choice 68s. Letters from Bavaria report the market as very firm, the recent improvement in values having been well supported of late by considerable sales. Belgian advices state that the late upward movement in prices has also been well maintained.' "

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 123⅛.

NEW YORK, December 8—P. M.

MONEY.

Money active and steady at 6@7 ₰ cent. Discounts dull at 10@12 ₰ cent. Banks with western connections are doing considerable in the way of rediscounting commercial paper based on hog packing operations. Reports say the next St. Paul dividend, which, however, will not be made till January, will be 7 ₰ cent. cash and 3 ₰ cent. scrip on the preferred, and 4 ₰ cent. cash and 6 ₰ cent. scrip on the common.

STERLING

Dull and heavy at 108¾@109¼.

GOLD

Active and higher, but closed quiet: opened at 123¼, touched 124, and closed at 123⅛. Carrying rates 6@7 ₰ cent. Clearances $29,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

Dull and a fraction lower, closing steady. Coupons '81, 118¾@118⅞; do '62, 115¼@115½; do '64, 112⅞@113; do '65, 113⅛@113¼; do new, 115⅛@115¼; do '67, 115¼@115⅜; do '68, 115¼@115⅜; 10-40s, 108@108¼; Pacifics, 107¾@108. The Sub-Treasury bought two millions at 112 45-100 ex-interest.

STATE BONDS

Lower on new Tennessees and North Carolinas, the former selling down to 42½, and the latter to 30. Missouris 90; old Tennessees 50¾.

STOCKS.

Higher, closing firm. Canton 50¼; Cumberland 26½; Western Union 34⅛; Quicksilver 24; Mariposa 8; do preferred 15¼; Adams Express 60; Wells-Fargo 17¼; American 39¼; United States 51; Pacific Mail 52; New York Central 91⅛; Erie 26½; do preferred 47; Harlem 135½; Hudson River scrip, 83¾; Reading, 99¾; Michigan Central, 120¼; Lake Shore, 86⅞; Illinois Central, 135¾; Pittsburgh, 82⅝; Northwestern, ex-dividend 72⅛; do preferred, 85¼; Rock Island, 107; St. Paul, 72⅛; do preferred, 86⅛; Wabash, 57; do preferred, 72; Fort Wayne 87⅛; Terre Haute 26½; Chicago and Alton, 144; do preferred, 144; Ohio and Mississippi, 25⅛; St. Joseph, 108; do preferred 108⅛; Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central 22⅛.

MINING SHARES

Dull. Boston prices—Calumet, 50; Hecla, 75; Quincy 19. Sub-Treasury balance $90,311,744.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

CHICAGO MARKET.

CHICAGO, December 8, 1869.

EASTERN EXCHANGE—Firm at par and ⅛ premium.

FLOUR—Dull and prices favor buyers; demand principally for small lots spring extras, for which sales ranged at $3 75@5.

WHEAT—Dull and 1@1½c lower; sales at 89@90c for No 1; 86¾@87¾c for No 2, closing dull at 87c for the latter; for future delivery prices were also easier at 86¾@87⅛c seller month; 88⅛@88¼c buyer do; 87⅛@87⅜c seller last half do, and 88¼@88⅜c seller January; during the afternoon the market was dull at 87c seller December; 84⅛c seller January.

CORN—Weaker and 4@4½c lower, No 2 closing at 73c; speculators were the principal operators; sales at 72½@75c; future delivery sales were at 72⅛@74⅛c seller month; 73@73⅛c seller last half December; 74⅛@74⅜c seller January.

OATS—Quiet and slightly lower, at 40½@41c for No 2, optional trading was at 40⅛@40⅜c seller month; 41@41⅛c seller January.

RYE—Demand light and prices nominal at 77c for No 1 and 75@76c for No 2, closing dull at 74c.

BARLEY—Dull and nominal at 80@83c for No 2.

HIGHWINES—More sellers than buyers, closing with free sellers at 95c for iron and wooden bound.

PROVISIONS—Firm. Mess pork active and 25c higher, closing firm at $37 00 cash; sales at $31 50@31 75 seller January; $31 95 seller January and February; $32 00 seller February, and $32 buyer January. Lard quiet and steady with buyers at 18¼c; sellers at 18½c cash. Green meats firm; shoulder 11c; hams 15c.

DRESSED HOGS—Active and 25c higher, at $12 25@13 00 on lots dividing on 200 lbs.

CATTLE—Steady at $3 75@4 85 for fair to good cows; $5 00@5 50 for fair to medium; $6 12½@6 50 for fair to good shipping steers.

HOGS—Firm under active packing and shipping demand, at $9 25@9 85 for common; $10 00@10 15 for fair to medium; $10 25@10 85 for good to choice.

CHICAGO, December 8—10 P. M.

At the afternoon board No 2 spring wheat sold at 86¾@87¼c, cash, and closed firm at 87¾c seller last half [illegible] seller January. Corn dull at 73½c cash; 74c seller last half. In the evening the grain markets were inactive. Provisions quiet; sales of green hams at 15c cash. Mess pork $31 cash. Lard 18¼c; mess pork sold for January at $32.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Cotton steady; sales 330 bales, at 25½c for middling uplands. Flour—receipts 17,670 bbls; flour heavy and strongly in buyers' favor; [illegible]

LATEST.—Flour closed slightly in buyers' favor, with a moderate export and home trade demand for medium and good common grades. Wheat heavy and 1c lower, with a limited export demand. [illegible]

New York Cattle Market.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Livestock—Beeves count 5,000 for the week, and 2,230 to-day. Market good and about all sold, prices ½c better than last Monday, and ¼c better than Friday. The snow storm suggested blocked up roads, and stimulated butchers. [illegible]

St. Louis Market.

[illegible]

Cleveland Market.

[illegible]

Cincinnati Market.

[illegible]

Louisville Market.

[illegible]

Nashville Market.

[illegible]

Philadelphia Cattle Market.

[illegible]

Philadelphia Market.

[illegible]

Milwaukee Market.

[illegible]

B. L. Fahnestock's Lung Syrup.

[illegible]

Juniper Tar Soap

[illegible] Caswell, [illegible] all druggists. ws*

PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL.

DAILY AND WEEKLY.

1870.

As a thorough newspaper, sparing neither labor nor expense to furnish the fullest and most reliable intelligence; as the fearless, consistent, and persistent opponent of corruption in office and advocate of Honesty, Economy, Retrenchment and Reform in public affairs; as the sworn foe of "Rings" and every description of dishonest combination,—just as ready to expose their practices in the Republican as Democratic party, and even more so, because it holds that a party that will cast out offenders of this description entitles itself to the confidence of the people—as an Independent Republican journal, the advocate of the rights and interests of the people,—THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL needs no new introduction to the reading public.

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And keeps up in the march of improvement and the development of ideas. Thoroughly alive to everything that is valuable or interesting, it identifies itself at once and heartily with whatever seems calculated to improve mankind and elevate the standard of intelligence and morality. As a Republican journal of the strictest sect, it deals with political questions with an earnest wish to get at the truth and place only good and capable men in office.

IT IS A PEOPLE'S PAPER,

And relies on their support and good opinion rather than the favors of political leaders. Nor has it done so in vain. Its independent course—more especially in denouncing legislative corruption and exposing the practices of thieves in office—has made it the favorite of the masses and the feared of dishonest aspirants and debauched party leaders. Of the reputation it has earned in this respect it is sincerely proud; and it wishes no different standing in the field of journalism in this regard than a discriminating public promptly accord to it. To prove faithful to their confidence and good opinion will be its constant endeavor.

IT IS A LIVE PAPER,

And ranks with the leading journals which are thoroughly awake to all that is going on. Its News Department is always fresh and full. Its editorials are written with a purpose in view. Its Market Reports and Commercial News gatherings are meant to supply the most exacting demands of the business public.

IT IS A PROSPEROUS AND GROWING PAPER,

Having from the start gone ahead, outstripping older occupants of the field of journalism; and it has attained to a prosperity and come to exert an influence second to no paper in the State. That it has fairly won the rank of the first paper in Pennsylvania is the verdict of newspaper readers in general.

IT IS A PAPER OF INFLUENCE,

It being read more generally than any other Pittsburgh paper by the business, professional and thinking classes. It is always found where the latest and fullest news is sought, and an independent paper prized,—in Banking Houses, Counting Rooms and the Family Circle, where it is welcomed as a business and intellectual necessity, and where its influence is constant and increasing.

ITS PAST COURSE IS ITS BEST RECOMMENDATION,

And it is felt that there is no necessity for indulging in new professions or making fresh promises. It means, while adhering to its standard in politics and morals, to improve as it progresses, and omit nothing that will add to its strength or increase its usefulness.

THE NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMERCIAL enters on another year strong and hopeful, and with a deliberate purpose consistent with what has been said above. And it does not hesitate to ask the co-operation of all who approve of that purpose. No hesitation is felt in saying that it desires this support in increasing its circulation and enlarging the sphere of its usefulness. The season is at hand when Congress and the Legislature will be in session, and stirring events at both the National and State Capital will be transpiring. The measures of the splendid administration of General Grant will soon be before the country—embracing questions of the deepest interest to every reader and tax-payer. The State Legislature, too, will present matters of interest. Abroad, the signs are animating; and at home in the field of politics, popular movements relating to education and religious questions are appearing, of which no one should permit himself to be ignorant, and concerning which all that is essential to be known will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to give.

TERMS.

Daily paper, $10 per year; $5 for six months; $2 50 for three months.

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IS A

Large 36 Column Newspaper,

CONTAINING FEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Its Ample Columns contain a complete compendium of the NEWS OF THE WEEK, the Leading Editorials from the Daily, and all the

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Tossing and Moaning During Sleep

Are generally caused by worms. B. A. Fahnestock's vermifuge will expel them. TTHS*

Do Not Neglect a Slight Cough,

It may end in consumption. C. F. Galton's cough balsam will relieve you. TTHS*

Its Effect
Is Miraculous.
Hall's Vegetable
Sicilian Hair Renewer.

It is a perfect and wonderful article. Cures baldness. Makes hair grow. A better dressing than any "oil" or "pomatum." Softens brash, dry and wiry hair into beautiful silken tresses. But, above all, the great wonder is the rapidity with which it restores gray hair to its original color.

The whitest and worst looking hair resumes its youthful beauty by its use. It does not dye the hair, but strikes at the root and fills it with new life and coloring matter.

The first application will do good; you will see the natural color returning every day, and

Before You Know It,

the old, gray, discolored appearance of the hair will be gone, giving place to lustrous, shining and beautiful locks.

Ask for Hall's Sicilian Hair Renewer; no other article is at all like it in effect.

See that each bottle has our private Government Stamp over the top of the bottle. All others are imitations.

R. P. Hall & Co., Nashua, N. H., proprietors.
For sale by all druggists. MWF*

Preparatory Medication.

The human system, the most delicate and sensitive of all created things, should be duly prepared to meet the shock occasioned by a sudden change in the temperature of the air. Even the solid metals contract and expand under cold and heat—so that if man were composed of iron, instead of frail tissues and fibres, circulating fluids and brittle osseous matter, his frame would not be proof against the vicissitudes of climate. As it is, it behooves every one, especially the feeble, to fortify the frail tenement of mortality against the inclemency of the present season. A wholesome, strength supplying vegetable tonic and alterative is the preparatory medicine required, and among medicinal agents of this character, HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS *stand supreme*. In a successful career of nearly a quarter of a century, the preparation has never been equalled or approached, and its sales are now larger than those of any half dozen articles, purporting to belong to the same class, that has ever been advertised in this country. As a remedy and preventive of DYSPEPSIA, and all its complications, it may be said to have *lived down competition* and to be the standard specific of the Western Hemisphere. A course of this genial restorative at the commencement of Winter is the surest safeguard against all the complaints which are caused or aggravated by exposure to cold.

MARRIED:

STEVENSON—McKEE—On Thursday evening, December 2, 1869, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. A. M. Milligan, assisted by Rev. J. R. W. Sloan, D. D., Mr. N. WYLIE STEVENSON, of St. Louis, Mo., to ELLA, daughter of John A. McKee, Esq.

LINTON—DARRAGH—On Wednesday, December 8, 1869, at the residence of the bride's father, Sharon, Pa., by Rev. I. C. Pershing, D. D., President of the Pittsburgh Female College, Mr. A. L. LINTON, of Rochester, Pa., and Miss MINERVA R., youngest daughter of James Darragh, Esq.

DIED.

TSCHUDY—On Thursday morning, December 2d, in Philadelphia, Rev. H. E. TSCHUDY, formerly of this city.

STOUFFER—On Friday, December 3d, B. N. STOUFFER, Jr., only child of B. W. and Mary A. Stouffer.

NUTT—On Saturday, December 4, 1869, at half-past 2 o'clock, Mr. SAMUEL NUTT, aged twenty-seven years.

OLIVER—At Latrobe, on Sunday morning, December 5th, Miss EMILY OLIVER, formerly of Pittsburgh.

WADE—On December 7th, at her residence in Connellsville, Mrs. KATE WADE, wife of John H. Wade.

DIERST—On Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, FREDERICK DIERST, Sr., aged sixty-two years.

WILLIAMS—December 8th, 1869, at 3 P. M., Mrs. LAURA C. WILLIAMS.

NOTICE—LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the estate of SAMUEL BENNETT, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Allegheny county, all persons indebted to said estate are hereby notified to make payment, and those having claims against the estate are requested to present them for payment without delay to me, at Mifflin township, or to John R. George, No. 73 Grant street.

JAMES WILSON, Adm'r.

MINNESOTA LANDS FOR SALE—ONE Hundred and Twenty Acres of Land, partly within and partly adjoining the city limits of Stillwater, Minnesota. Three Hundred and Sixty Acres adjoining Chengwatana, county seat of Pine county, Minnesota, and Eighty Acres of Mineral Land, near Superior City, Wisconsin. The above property is very valuable. For particulars inquire of CROFT & PHILLIPS, No. 139 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. d*

WANTED—
SOMEBODY TO PURCHASE
Peter Thompson's Patent Boot and Shoe Laster.
Address PETER THOMPSON,
Sardis, Ohio. *

HYGEIAN HOME,
N. R. ADAMS, M. D., Physician.
This WATER CURE, on Cushion Mountain, is celebrated for the Purity of the Air and Water, and the Beauty of the Scenery. Its reputation as a cure for the sick stands without a rival. For terms and circulars address the Proprietors.
BROWN & MIDDLEKAUF
Wernersville, Berks Co. *

DRY BOARDS—2,000,000 FEET AT Superior Lumber Company's Yard, cor. Twenty-second and Railroad streets. d*

DRY PLANK—400,000 FEET AT Superior Lumber Company's Yard, cor. Twenty-second and Railroad streets. d*

DRY JOIST—200,000 FEET AT SUPERIOR Lumber Company's Yard, cor. Twenty-second and Railroad streets. d*

EXTRA INDUCEMENTS.

PREMIUMS FOR SINGLE SUBSCRIBERS.

In order that all our new subscribers to the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL may share alike in the inducements we offer, we have made arrangements to furnish each single subscriber, at two dollars a year, with a valuable picture. The COMMERCIAL alone is fully worth the subscription price, but we are persuaded to offer this extra inducement in order that our circulation may be more rapidly extended. We have been at great cost in procuring these pictures, and the subscription price of our Weekly will scarcely cover the outlay. Every single new subscriber, therefore, who sends us two dollars previous to April 1, 1870, will receive one of the following four pictures, the subscriber taking his choice:

I.---THE FARM YARD.

The Straw Yard is copied from J. F. Herring's celebrated painting. It is a picture that interests at the first glance. Herring's animals are drawn from the human point of action; his brutes have not inaptly been termed "four legged humanity." The Straw Yard is one of his best efforts, felicitous in composition, lively in details, displaying an appreciation of nature seldom found in the treatment of kindred subjects. Standing stolidly, with fetlocks partially covered with draggled, damp straw, munching carelessly at the straw lying before them in the open bin, and occupying a central position are two horses, whose very attitude suggests repose. The snow weighted limb extending over them has sheltered them from the sun's rays in the hot August days. The fowl darting in and out between the horses hoofs in quest of a chance grain or grub, like the swine at their heels, are equally indifferent to danger. Association; familiarity in this case breeds contempt. The ducks turn their bills under their wings in calm security; the pigs bury their snouts deep under the dank straw in their eagerness to secure the vegetables flung down for their special benefit, attracting by their selfish grunts those of their family in the distance, which are no ways slow in responding to the signal of a common conflict. In the distance a group of horses seek the shelter of a shed, from under which they contemplate the scene complacently, snuffing the frosty air and varying the monotony of the winter day by fondling each other. The lithograph is 21x26 inches, and is equally suitable for the drawing-room or library.

II.---SHEARING TIME.

The conception of this picture is so simple as to appeal at once to the sympathies of the beholder. Its perspective, like its principal figures, is true to nature. "Shearing Time" is copied from one of the ablest paintings produced by A. Berendsen, a famous artist. "Shearing Time" represents the real poetry of lowly life. The expression of the half shorn ram lying between the shearers is almost human. The expression and attitude of the shearer, as with pipe in his mouth he directs the attention of his faithful shepherd dog to the disposition of the next subject to evade the trying ordeal, is a study in itself. If the dog permits the sheep to stray after such a look as that cast upon him by his master, he cannot plead ignorance of his master's will, betrayed in every lineament of his stern countenance. The highlands in the slumbrous distance, the friendly offices of the lass at the gate, the occupation of the figures in the foreground, all go to make up a picture reminding the observer of a sweet melody, or a pensive poem. Size, 21x26 inches. A mate for the preceding picture.

III.--HALT IN THE WOOD.

Copied from F. Gauermann, whose works display a technical strength, an imagination competent to high creative art, and a knowledge of naturalistic truth which has placed him in the front rank of modern painters. The "Halt in the Wood" is full of ease, grace and vitality. Its personages are true to nature. The thirsty hunter quaffing leisurely from the limpid stream can well afford to halt in the shade, leaving his gamekeepers to look after the horses laden with the fruits of the chase. The tired steeds in their turn accept the respite thankfully, while the gamekeepers, now that the excitement of the hunt is over, contemplate with pardonable pride the antlers of the deer, which are the crowning trophies of the day, commenting between the whiffs of their pipes upon the conduct of the dogs, and their good fortune. The figures are picturesquely grouped, exhibiting the grace and freedom of action common to the life of a sportsman. A picture to please the multitude, with special charms for lovers of the chase. Size 21 by 26 inches.

IV.--GAMEKEEPERS' RETURN.

This is also copied from F. Gauermann. Like the preceding picture, "The Gamekeeper's Return" displays the ready and quick hand of a master. Full of spirit, singularly clear, broad and effective in style, it displays a delicacy of refinement in execution and sentiment seldom equalled. In his *genre*, or home paintings, Gauermann appears to be as much at home as in the difficult task of depicting the passions and sentiment of animal life. We say "home" painting, because "The Gamekeeper's Return" awakens all those sentiments, feelings and ideas which have their origin and growth under the family roof, and in social training. The Gamekeeper is the central figure. Ere he lays his gun out of his hand, he directs his wife's attention to the game beneath which the table beside him fairly groans. Hares, rabbits, pheasants, quails, each in turn are held up to the admiring gaze of his wife, who in her eagerness to pass upon the merits of the same, pauses in her domestic occupation, extending a critical hand. The gamekeeper's son flings the weight of game from his shoulders; the antlers of the dead deer stretch across the floor, and a setter, in his eagerness to quench his thirst, laps from a dish in a corner. Men and dogs are privileged characters; the fruits of the chase absorbs the attention of the tidy housekeeper. Size 21x26 inches, a companion-piece to the preceding picture.

DR. SARGENT'S
COUGH SYRUP,
The Great Remedy for the Cure of Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat and all Diseases of the Pulmonary Organs.

DR. SARGENT'S COUGH SYRUP

Is sure and speedy in its action, perfectly safe and harmless, exercises a specific influence on the lungs, assists expectoration, abates fever, and allays the tickling which occasions the cough. At this inclement, changeable season of the year, Colds are easily taken, and, not relieved at once, may result in Consumption. As a preventive, every family should have a bottle on hand, and save much expense and suffering. For sale by all Druggists and Dealers in Medicines.

PRICE, 50 CENTS PER BOTTLE.

The following is the experience of every one who has tried this Remedy:

PLAIN GROVE, December 27, 1868.

MR. GEO. A. KELLY—Dear Sir: I take pleasure in stating that I have used for some time back Dr. Sargent's Cough Syrup in my family, and have always found it an efficient remedy for Coughs and Colds, and can heartily recommend it as a safe and valuable medicine.
Yours, truly,
REV. J. E. WHITTEN.

CAUTION—Take no other medicine as a substitute for this Syrup, but if your druggist does not have it, request him to order it. Sent by mail upon receipt of price.

SOLE PROPRIETOR,
GEO. A. KELLY,
WHOLESALE DRUGGIST,
Cor. Wood street and Second avenue,
d* PITTSBURGH.

Woolen Druggets
AND
FELT CARPETS,
1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3¼, 3½ and 3¾ Yards Wide.
BORDERED SQUARES,
SUITABLE FOR PARLORS.
Dining Room Crumb Cloths,
Woolen, Linen and Cotton.
At Lower Prices than Last Season,
Notwithstanding the undiminished Tariff on these Goods.
McFARLAND & COLLINS
71 AND 73 FIFTH AVENUE.
d*

Tradesmen's National Bank,
WOOD STREET, CORNER SECOND.
INTEREST PAID ON DEPOSITS.
GOLD, COUPONS,
Bonds and Stocks,
BOUGHT AND SOLD.
A. BRADLEY............President.
W. VANKIRK............Vice President.
CYRUS CLARKE, Jr............Cashier.
d*

Universal Manufacturing Co.
SHARES $10 PAR VALUE.
A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR SMALL CAPITALISTS.
TRUSTEES.—JOHN C. WOODHEAD, Allegheny, JOSIAH HOLMES, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sole Makers of the Norburns Interchangeable Boot and Shoe Heels, Ice Creepers and Skate Fasteners.
Having bought the EXCLUSIVE RIGHT, TITLE and INTEREST in JOHN NORBURN'S Patent with all Improvements, the Universal Manufacturing Company hereby caution all persons against Buying or Using the above named articles after this date without a genuine license from the Universal Manufacturing Company. Said Company will not be liable for any Order, Due Bills, Notes or obligations of any kind, unless signed jointly by the Treasurer, JOSIAH HOLMES and the President, JOHN C. WOODHEAD. Every information may be obtained at the Office and Works, 35 and 39 WALNUT STREET, SOUTH CANAL, Allegheny, Pa.
December 1, 1869. *

CHAS. ABEL & CO.,
172 Wylie Street, Pittsburgh,
DEALERS IN
PURE DRUGS, CHEMICALS, PERFUMERY and TOILET GOODS.
Pure WINES and LIQUORS for Medicinal Purposes. *

WANTED—
AGENTS, MALE AND FEMALE,
To sell the best Sewing Machine ever made for the money. Address
BAKER SEWING MACHINE CO.,
* Cleveland, Ohio.

SCANTLING—ALL SIZES AT SUPERIOR Lumber Company's Yard, cor. Twenty-second and Railroad streets. d*

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[illegible]

C. DELANO,
Commissioner.

HON. GEO. S. BOUTWELL,
Secretary of the Treasury.

REPORT

OF THE

Comptroller of the Currency.

[illegible]

... many sections the local taxation growing out of the expenses of the war is so high, as, when added to the United States taxes, to absorb a large proportion of the profits of the banks. Limited by law to the legal rate of interest, the bank must wind up, or its stockholders must be content with meagre dividends. Some banks in this predicament have actually taken the necessary steps to close up their affairs. Others, probably, have resorted to usury to increase their profits to the paying point.*

Banking systems had been in operation in several States for a number of years before the war, that issued circulation based upon a deposit of State or United States bonds; and there was no limitation to the number of such banks, or to the amount of circulation they might issue. The deposit of United States bonds required as security for the circulation of national banks is nothing new, either in theory or practice. The fact that the United States paid the interest on its bonds in gold, which gold was sold by the banks at a premium, enabled them to make larger profits than were accustomed to be realized by State banks formerly doing business under similar circumstances. And the additional fact that the amount of circulation that could be issued by national banks was limited to $300,000,000—giving to the system the semblance of a monopoly—operated to produce an impression in the public mind that national banks were mines of wealth, realizing to their stockholders fabulous dividends. Some of the earlier banks, which sold their gold interest at from 100 to 108 per cent. premium, and which sold five-twenty bonds for the agents of the government to the amount of millions, probably did realize very large profits. But that day has passed.

The average dividends made by the banks during the last year will probably not exceed ten per cent. upon their capital, after deducting taxes and expenses. And as the premium on gold shall diminish, and the national banking system shall be made free to all who are able and choose to comply with its conditions, the average profit will conform to the law which governs all business. It will be a fair living profit, and no more.

SOUND CURRENCY.

The currency constitutes a very important part of the financial system of any country. Without a sound currency, a healthy financial condition is impossible. There are two requisites to a sound currency: convertibility and elasticity, and either of the two involves the other. The present currency of the United States possesses neither of these requisites. During the past year it has neither increased nor diminished, but stands about as it did this time last year—*$356,000,000 issued by the government, and $300,000,000 issued by the banks—neither redeemable nor convertible into anything more valuable, and therefore not susceptible of reduction by any ordinary process; each issued to the full limit allowed by law with no power of expansion. The whole amount must be employed, whether it is wanted or not, and the limit cannot be exceeded, no matter how urgently more may be required. During the summer months, when there is rest in almost all branches of trade, the whole circulation was in market seeking employment; and now that autumn has come, with its bounteous harvests, when the farmer seeks to realize in money the reward of his labor and the interest of his capital for the whole year, when hundreds of millions must be distributed throughout the length and breadth of the land, we have the same unvarying amount of currency to use.

There are two kinds of currency in use: one issued directly by the government; the other issued by the banks. One kind would seem to be enough. The best should be preserved and perfected; the other withdrawn.

Applying the test first to the government issue, it is noticed at once that they are not redeemable, and that no provision has ever been made for that purpose. The very moment they are made redeemable, they will cease to answer the purposes of currency; for, after they are redeemed, they are in the treasury and cannot again be paid out, except upon appropriations made by law, in accordance with the constitutional provision, and consequently cannot again be put in circulation, except as disbursements may be necessary to pay expenses and debts of the government. So that government circulation is not convertible, and therefore is not elastic, and cannot be made so without first making a radical change in the organization of the United States treasury, by which it should be converted into a huge banking institution calculated to receive deposits, make loans, and otherwise perform the functions of a national bank.

The notes issued by national banks are nominally redeemable; and, if the legal-tender notes were out of the way, would be actually so, and, being issued by institutions in sympathy with trade, would contract and expand in obedience to the law of supply and demand, so that they would also possess the element of elasticity.

As to the comparative merits of the two kinds of currency, an impartial consideration would probably decide in favor of a bank circulation, principally because it would possess the power of adapting itself to the exigencies of trade. If Government issues could be made to possess the same power of adaptation, the verdict would be in their favor. A candid investigation, however, cannot fail to develop the fact that there is no branch of the fiscal service adequate to the direct issue and care of such a currency as the country requires. The treasury system is so arbitrary in its collections and disbursements, so little in harmony with the business interests of the community, that it frequently absorbs large amounts of currency at most inopportune seasons, and disburses them with just as little regard to the wants of trade. If the treasury were redeeming its issues, large amounts would be presented for payment when money was plenty; but, as the return of this money to the channels of trade would depend upon the disbursements of the Government, there could be no certainty that it would find its way back again when needed. In fact, the current operations of the Treasury of the United States are regarded by business men as constituting a powerful, and at the same time a very uncertain element, difficult to estimate, but which must necessarily be taken into consideration in all their business transactions. It is but justice, however, to say that the inconveniences and defects inherent in the present system have been obviated as far as possible by the present administration of the department, and where they could not be obviated entirely, they have been reduced to a minimum.

So long, therefore, as the collection of the revenue is liable to be a process of contraction, and their disbursement a process of inflation, the agencies through which collections and disbursements are effected cannot be regarded as suitable agencies for furnishing a sound currency to the people.

The argument that the Government should furnish the currency in order that it may realize the profit upon its circulation is a common one, but will not bear scrutiny. There is no profit to the Government on the circulation of an inferior currency. Only a sound currency will promote the material prosperity of the people; and the Government can realize no profit from anything detrimental to their interests. As a currency, therefore, Government issues are not profitable. As a loan without interest they are equally unprofitable, because they are injurious to the national credit, and add enormously to the expenses of the Government.

If, however, it is possible for the Government to comply with the conditions necessary in order to furnish a sound currency, it can at least provide for the withdrawal of its own notes, and prescribe the conditions upon which, and the agencies through which, a better currency may be provided. As before stated, there should be but one paper currency in the country, and that should emanate from a source that is influenced by, and is amenable to, the laws of trade. No check or limitation should be imposed upon it, other than the law of supply and demand.

FREE BANKING.

The banking system now in operation under [illegible]

[illegible]

... ity on the subject which may lead to the introduction of paper money, if the opportunity is afforded.

By the establishment of banks on a specie basis, the resumption of specie payments is only anticipated; and familiarity with gold values will do much to relieve the subject of the mystery with which it is associated in the minds of many. Looking forward to the day when uniform values shall again prevail, it may be that, by wise legislation now, a banking system can be established truly national in its character and scope, which will furnish a sound currency of uniform value in every State of the Union.

Respectfully submitted.

HILAND R. HULBURD,
Comptroller of the Currency.

HON. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Statement showing the number of Banks, amount of capital, amount of bonds deposited, and circulation, in each State and Territory, on the 30th of September, 1869:

States and Territories.	Organizations. Organized.	Closed or closing.	In operation.	Capital paid in.
Maine	62	1	61	$ 9,185,000 00
New Hampshire	41	...	41	4,835,000 00
Vermont	40	...	40	6,810,012 50
Massachusetts	209	3	206	85,082,000 00
Rhode Island	62	...	62	20,364,800 00
Connecticut	83	2	81	24,606,820 00
New York	315	21	294	116,284,941 00
New Jersey	55	1	54	11,565,350 00
Pennsylvania	205	8	197	50,235,340 00
Maryland	32	1	31	12,790,202 50
Delaware	11	...	11	1,429,185 00
District of Columbia	6	2	4	1,350,000 00
Virginia	20	3	17	2,623,300 00
West Virginia	15	1	14	2,216,400 00
Ohio	138	6	132	22,954,700 00
Indiana	71	3	68	12,902,000 00
Illinois	84	2	82	12,570,000 00
Michigan	43	2	41	5,460,010 00
Wisconsin	37	3	34	2,760,000 00
Iowa	48	5	43	4,017,000 00
Minnesota	18	1	17	1,840,000 00
Kansas	5	...	5	400,000 00
Missouri	20	2	18	7,810,300 00
Kentucky	16	...	16	2,885,000 00
Tennessee	14	1	13	2,015,300 00
Louisiana	3	1	2	1,300,000 00
Mississippi	2	2	...	...
Nebraska	4	...	4	450,000 00
Colorado	3	...	3	350,000 00
Georgia	9	2	7	1,600,000 00
North Carolina	6	...	6	624,400 00
South Carolina	3	...	3	823,500 00
Alabama	3	1	2	400,000 00
Nevada	1	...	1	250,000 00
Oregon	1	...	1	100,000 00
Texas	4	...	4	525,000 00
Arkansas	2	...	2	200,000 00
Utah	1	...	1	150,000 00
Montana	1	...	1	100,000 00
Idaho	1	...	1	100,000 00
Total	1,694	74	1,620	432,163,611 00

Statement showing the number of Banks, amount of capital, amount of bonds deposited, and circulation, in each State and Territory, on the 30th of September, 1869:

States and Territories.	Bonds on Deposit.	Circulat'n issued	In actual circulation.
Maine	$ 8,438,750	$ 7,682,256	$ 7,569,796 00
N. Hampshire	4,897,000	4,394,395	4,281,195 00
Vermont	6,538,500	5,916,800	5,751,720 00
Massachusetts	65,290,500	60,104,670	57,046,990 00
Rhode Island	14,193,600	12,940,850	12,486,900 00
Connecticut	19,738,100	18,215,115	17,433,978 00
New York	79,096,500	76,667,510	68,553,175 00
New Jersey	10,710,450	9,736,245	9,407,115 00
Pennsylvania	44,353,500	40,769,220	38,748,636 00
Maryland	10,098,750	9,436,780	3,910,880 00
Delaware	1,348,200	1,244,725	1,197,625 00
Dist. Columbia	1,337,000	1,339,500	1,099,571 00
Virginia	2,465,000	2,177,580	2,131,980 00
West Virginia	2,243,250	2,068,950	1,988,050 00
Ohio	20,042,150	19,076,260	18,405,385 00
Indiana	12,551,650	11,291,698	11,017,627 00
Illinois	11,392,850	10,315,845	9,950,275 00
Michigan	4,265,100	3,957,555	3,824,755 00
Wisconsin	2,715,750	2,626,750	2,598,102 00
Iowa	3,671,750	3,436,135	3,217,077 00
Minnesota	1,772,200	1,601,400	1,548,900 00
Kansas	382,000	371,400	341,000 00
Missouri	4,786,350	4,419,170	4,164,535 00
Kentucky	2,725,700	2,428,470	2,366,720 00
Tennessee	1,490,200	1,291,170	1,191,551 00
Louisiana	1,258,000	1,251,120	1,094,390 00
Mississippi	...	66,000	53,383 00
Nebraska	225,000	171,500	170,030 00
Colorado	287,000	255,700	232,000 00
Georgia	1,383,500	1,239,900	1,234,100 00
North Carolina	445,100	384,700	379,700 00
South Carolina	277,000	192,500	192,500 00
Alabama	310,500	353,025	288,647 00
Nevada	155,000	131,700	129,700 00
Oregon	100,000	88,500	88,500 00
Texas	472,100	429,535	407,535 00
Arkansas	200,000	180,200	178,900 00
Utah	150,000	135,500	135,000 00
Montana	40,000	36,000	36,000 00
Idaho	75,000	63,500	63,500 00
Fractional redemptions reported by the Treasurer of the United States	...	...	3 45
Total	$ 342,475,100	$ 317,992,516	$ 299,789,895 45

Statement showing the National Banks in liquidation, their capital, bonds deposited to secure circulation delivered, circulation surrendered and destroyed, and circulation outstanding October 1, 1869.

Name and location of Bank.	Capital.	U. S. Bonds on deposit.	Circulation delivered	Circulation returned and destroyed.	Circulation outstanding
National Union Bank of Rochester, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Leonardsville, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Farmers' National Bank of Richmond, Va.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Bank of the Metropolis, Washington, D. C.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Elkhart, Indiana	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Bank of Crawford County, Meadville, Pa.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
City National Bank of Savannah, Ga.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of New Ulm, Minn.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Kingston, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Bluffton, Ind.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Skaneateles, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Appleton National Bank, of Appleton, Wis.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Bank of Whitestown, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Cuyahoga Falls, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nat'l Mechanics and Farmers' Bank of Albany, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Steubenville, Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Danville, Va.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Oskaloosa, Iowa	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merchants and Mechanics' Nat'l Bank of Troy, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
First National Bank of Marion, Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Insurance Bank of Detroit, Michigan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Bank of Lansingburgh, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
National Bank of North America, New York, N. Y.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

*The First National Bank of Elkhart, Ind., has been ... and resumed business.

Statement showing the National Banks, in voluntary liquidation, that have deposited lawful money with the Treasurer of the United States to redeem their circulation, withdrawn their bonds, and are closed under the provisions of section 42 of the act; their capital, circulation issued, circulation surrendered, circulation redeemed by the Treasurer of the United States, and circulation outstanding on the 1st day of October, 1869.

[illegible]

Statement showing the National Banks in ... al, amount ... money deposited ... ount of circulation ... circulation ... he United ... ding on the ...

[illegible]

*Statement of United States Currency for 1868 and 1869.

[illegible]

REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF WAR.

The report of General Belknap, Secretary of War, which will be submitted to Congress today, opens with a reference to Gen. Rawlins, of whom he says:

> Of General Rawlins it can with truth be said that the virtues of true manhood characterized his life as a soldier, citizen and statesman, while on the records of the department will ever remain the evidences of his high honor, his patriotism and his sagacious judgment.

The Secretary then explains that few recommendations will be made at length, as the duties of the office were assumed but a few days prior to the date of this report—November 20. He, however, refers to the material matters of the reports presented to him. Referring to the report of the General of the Army, he says:

There are twelve departments and three districts, each under the command of a general officer, and the departments are formed into four military divisions, commanded by the four generals next in rank to the General of the Army. The regular army consists of five regiments of artillery, ten of cavalry, twenty-five of infantry, the battalion of engineers, and the corps of cadets. All the regiments are on duty.

The Secretary indorses a recommendation of General Sherman, that legislation be had enacting the rules and articles of war adopted by the board convened in conformity with the act of Congress of July 28, 1866, and approving the new regulations compiled in June, 1868. The Secretary then continues, still referring to General Sherman's report:

After the consolidation, made in accordance with the act of March 3, 1869, there remained November 1, 509 unattached officers. All of these have been assigned to duty excepting 150, who are awaiting orders. It seems equitable and just, should a reduction be made, that officers awaiting orders by their own request, and preferring that to active duty, should have less claim for assignment. Of this class, there are 139 officers. Some of them, however, had special reasons for asking to be placed on the awaiting orders list, which the department recognized, and which should be regarded. It is certainly fair that the consequences of a reduction of officers should fall proportionately on cavalry, artillery and infantry; and, should Congress act in the matter, it is proper that this consideration should not be overlooked. In reference to the question of reduction I concur with the report in recommending that authority be given to retire a greater number of officers for cause than is now allowed by law—seven per cent. of the officers of the whole army. The present maximum of the army is 52,234 enlisted men. Relying on two-thirds for actual service, the number of men is 34,822. By the plan of organization submitted in the report, there would be 42,650 men. Two-thirds for actual service would be 29,750 men, below which it would not be prudent to go, as the necessities of the country and the great extent of territory to be protected will require every man of that number. Section 6 of the act of March 3, 1869 provides that, until otherwise directed by law, there shall be no new appointments and no promotions in the Adjutant-General's Department, in the Inspector-General's Department, in the Quartermaster's Department, in the Commissary Department, in the Ordnance Department, in the Engineer Department, and in the Medical Department. I recommend that the Staff Corps be retained at the standard fixed by the act of July, 1866, and that the clause prohibiting appointments and promotions be repealed, in order that vacancies may be filled, as was the practice prior to the passage of the act of March, 1869. Although the army may be smaller than heretofore, experience has shown that these officers are as necessary for the smaller as the larger force.

He indorses the recommendation of the Adjutant General of the Army for the repeal of so much of section 6 of the act of March 3, 1869, as prohibits further appointment or promotions, leaving the organization of the Adjutant General's department as it was fixed by section 10 of the act of July 28, 1866. An increase to the number of Assistant Inspectors General is recommended. With regard to the Bureau of Military Justice, the Secretary says:

The Judge Advocate General reports the number of records of military courts received, renewed, and registered to be 14,944; number of special reports made 1,352. The Bureau, in addition to the regular duties, has been charged with the duty of of systematically arranging and indexing the important State papers belonging to the offices of the late Col. L. C. Turner, Judge Advocate, and Brigadier General L. C. Baker, Provost Marshal, and the work is steadily progressing. The expenses of the Quartermaster's Department during the fiscal year ending June 13, 1869, were $21,968,484 08, a reduction of $14,500,000 below those of the preceding fiscal year. In February, 1868, the number of civilians hired by this Department exceed 10,000, which has since been reduced to 4,500. Line officers have done duty in the Quartermaster's Department in addition to the officers of that establishment, eighty-four in number.

Of the Quartermaster General, the report states that the clerical force of this office has been reduced so low, by late legislation, as to seriously retard the public business; and to provide for the settlement of accounts some increase in the force is necessary. A building capable of accommodating all the bureaus of the War Department, fire-proof and secure, is much needed. Military records of great value are exposed to destruction, and are so scattered as to impede and delay the public business. The monthly rental of buildings and lots occupied by buildings owned by the United States amounted to $4,264 19, being a yearly rental of $50,954 28. The railway companies to which the military railroad material of the Quartermaster's Department was sold on credit at the end of the war, incurred a debt originally of $7,591,406. Interest has increased this amount to $9,000,000, about one-half of which has been paid, but some railroads being in default, and showing no disposition to meet their obligations, suit has been lately ordered to be brought against them. But few vessels have been owned by this department during the year. The railroads of the country having declined to adhere to the war rates of transportation, have been paid during the fiscal year their general tariffs, with a classification of military supplies settled in conference at a convention of general freight agents. There have been paid for water transportation during the year, $1,424,222 82, and for railroad transportation, $2,253,304 30. Of this amount, $963,166 21 was paid to the Pacific railroads, one-half being paid in cash and the other half retained in the Treasury to meet the interest on the bonds guaranteed by the United States. During the year 96,000 persons, 3,700 animals, and 62,000 tons of stores have been moved by water, and 60,000 persons, 14,000 animals, and 40,000 tons of stores by railroad; 27,000 tons of stores have been moved by contractors for wagon transportation. The Pacific Railroad has occupied some of the principal routes of former wagon transportation, and has saved the government much money in supplying the posts along its line. By arrangements between the Departments of War and the Interior, supplies for the Indian service are now transported by the Quartermaster's Department on routes in the Indian Territory, the actual cost under the contract being refunded to the War Department out of the appropriation of $2,000,000 for the pacification of the Indians, granted April 10, 1869. Although the amount of clothing and equipage on hand at the end of the war has been reduced by sales and issues, there still remains a stock valued at over $42,000,000. The general depots have been reduced to four, and at only two of them is there any large collection of material, viz., at the Schuylkill arsenal on the Delaware, and at Jeffersonville, on the Ohio. This latter is being drawn upon constantly, but it still contains over $14,000,000 worth of war material. There are 72 national cemeteries, and 313 local post or private cemeteries in which soldiers lie buried. The titles of 71 of the national cemeteries have been approved as perfect by the Attorney General: 302,607 interments are reported, of which 171,-946 have been identified. The expenditure on this work has been nearly $3,000,000 during the year. 5,855 animals were purchased, and 3,492 were sold. These latter produced the sum of $223,338. Subsistence supplies for the army have been mainly procured in the large market cities of the country. The average cost of the ration at these markets has been about 23c. Efforts to procure salt meats on the Pacific coast for troops stationed there have met with great success, supplies of excellent quality having been obtained at favorable prices. Tobacco, at an average monthly value of $19,000, has been furnished to the troops at cost prices, and the Freedmen's Bureau has been supplied with stores to the value of nearly $250,000, most of which has already been paid for, and the remainder is in process of refunding at the Treasury. The issues to Indians at various points have amounted to more than $150,000, and, at the request of the Interior Department, stores valued at $37,500 were issued to destitute Osages and others, to prevent starvation during the winter. Under an arrangement between the War Department and the Department of the Interior, the Indian Department is being furnished with food for the Indians on several reservations on the Missouri river and in the Indian Territory. The ration so furnished is prescribed or approved by the Interior Department, and its value is to be repaid from appropriations made by section 4 of the act of April 10, 1869. There has been paid $27,621 75 as commutation on rations to Union soldiers while prisoners of war. Claims for supplies furnished the army during the war, amounting to $2,899,806 13, have been received, of which $288,033 87 have been allowed, and $2,581,064 13 have been rejected. During the fiscal year 11,907 accounts and returns have been received, from various offices, of which 11,787 have been examined and referred to the Third Auditor for final settlement. A change in the army ration, by extending the variety of articles, and also in the manner of disposing of the savings of soldiers' messes and bakeries would be of advantage. A change in the law is recommended so as to allow officers of the line when acting as assistant commissaries of subsistence to receive $20 per month in addition to their pay instead of $20 less one ration per day, now allowed.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR WORKS

have progressed as rapidly as the means appropriated for their execution allowed. The appropriation in April last of $2,000,000 for these works was distributed in accordance with the law so as to subserve the interests of commerce. The survey of Northern and Northwestern lakes has progressed commensurately with the amounts appropriated for conducting it. The Lake Superior survey is drawing to completion. It has developed many new harbors of refuge, and made known dangers to navigation highly important to the commercial interests of the States dependent upon the water line of communication for the transportation of cerals and ores.

Reconnoissances and geographical and geological explorations and surveys have been continued during the year in the territory west of the Mississippi river, and the information thus obtained is supplied to the troops occupying that section of the country. The survey of the Colorado of the West has not for special reasons been resumed. Collateral surveys now in progress may furnish evidence of the necessity of the survey of the upper portions of the river and of the improvement of the lower portion as a line of military supply and of travel and transportation from the mines of Southern Nevada. The geological survey just completed from Sierra Nevada to the Rocky Mountains is fruitful in valuable results, especially in relation to the mining regions and to the extent of the coal formation. It also furnishes other scientific data of great interest.

Liberty Arsenal, Missouri, has been sold during the year, under authority of the act of July 28, 1868, and realized the sum of $8,012 50. The St. Louis Arsenal will be sold under the same act as soon as it can be spared, but certain buildings thereat should be reserved from sale, and devoted to general army purposes. The sale of the Harper's Ferry Armory property will take place on November 30, 1869. The Rome Arsenal, the Champlain Arsenal, the Mount Vernon Arsenal (Alabama), the Appalachicola Arsenal, and the North Carolina Arsenal are recommended to be sold. It is advisable that this should be done, and that the captured lands in Shreveport, Louisiana, in Marshall and Jefferson, Texas, and in Marion and Davis counties, Texas, should be similarly disposed of. A principal arsenal of construction and deposit and a powder depot are recommended to be established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the valley of the Mississippi. The sale of some of the present eastern arsenals is suggested as a means to raise funds wherewith to establish the principal arsenal for the Atlantic coast. Rock Island is the point for the principal arsenal for the valley for the Mississippi. Powder depots should be established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The army will probably be able to absorb the cadets as fast as they graduate, it being but two-fifths larger than the now authorized number, while the army has more than doubled in the meantime.

Upon the question of raising the standard of admission, he remarks that every addition to the list of preparatory qualifications necessarily restricts the circle from which can be drawn, and that the present list embraces all the attainments that can be obtained by a very large majority of the youth of the country.

Since the standard was raised by law in 1866 the rejections for want of the necessary educational acquirements have increased from 15 per cent. to 27 per cent. As a substitute for the other recommendations of the Board, the Inspector proposes schools of application for the several arms, such as exist in Europe and have always been favored by military officers here, and the nucleus for two of which are to be found in the artillery school at Fortress Monroe and one of the three engineer depots already established. He gives various reasons for his proposition; principal among them the ready and economical application of facilities already at hand, and the depressing influence upon the cadets of a long residence amid unchanging scenes and unvarying modes of life, study and discipline. The estimates for the support of the academy during the coming fiscal year amount to $332,264 20, of which $212,019 20 is for pay and allowances of instructors and cadets.

The division commanded by Lieutenant General Sheridan embraces the Departments of Dakota, the Platte and the Missouri, commanded respectively by Major General W. S. Hancock, Brevet Major General Augur and Brevet Major General Schofield. These three departments cover a territory of great extent, in which most of the civilized, semi-civilized and wild Indians abide, and include the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Territories of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Dakota, Montana, and the Indian. The administration of these departments has been ably and economically conducted, but the number of troops now on duty in them is deemed insufficient, with the present reduced strength of companies, to meet the wants of the service. Although there have been numerous depredations in this division, the condition of Indian affairs is very much better than last year. The policy of reservations adopted by the Indian Department is in the judgment of General Sheridan, the only policy that will put an end to Indian murders and depredations. Every effort is made to avoid the necessity of punishing the savages, with the strong hope that they may settle down on their reservations, and adopt a more peaceful and civilized life. The system of supplying the wild bands under the present Indian management is working well. The Indian receives all that the government intends he should, and can have no plea of bad faith to urge as an excuse for a return to his former habits.

The current expenditures of the Medical Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were $233,561 21. The total expenditures of that department, including "war debts" and "refundments," was $708,305 36, and the available balance on hand at the close of the year was $1,792,050 73. The health of the troops has been good. The total number of cases on the sick list during the year was 104,235. The average number constantly on sick-list report was 2,367, or about 5-12 per cent. The number of deaths was 548; of discharges for disability, 1,128. The number of commissioned medical officers for duty on June 30, 1869, was 161, being an average of one medical officer to 204 men. The number of posts was 239, besides detachments and outposts. There are now two vacancies of surgeons and forty-two of assistant surgeons in the medical corps. The experience of the past three years has shown that the present organization of the medical staff is satisfactory, but that even were all the vacancies in it filled it would still be barely adequate to the demands made upon it.

The Paymaster General presents the following summary exhibit: Balance in the hands of Paymasters at the beginning of the fiscal year—July 1, 1868, $5,981,578 14; received from Treasury during the fiscal year $36,245,000; received by Paymasters from other sources; exclusive of sums transferred among themselves, $238,192 06; total to be accounted for $42,464,770 20. Accounted for as follows: Disbursements to the regular army $18,678,250 61; disbursements to Military Academy $185,258 78; disbursements to volunteers, back pay and bounties, $19,918,-635 43; total disbursements $38,782,144 82; amount refunded to Treasury $48,948 37; balance in hands of Paymasters June 30, 1869, $3,633,677 01; total $42,464,770 20. There remain now in service only sixty regular paymasters authorized by the act for the reorganization of the army passed July 28, 1866.

The disbursements for reconstruction purposes are $2,613,293 46, and the balance in hands of paymasters October 2, 1869, is $110,643 79. The total amount disbursed by the pay department for additional bounties, including those settled by the Second Auditor and paid by the department on treasury certificates from the beginning to the 30th June last, $57,220,150.

Some more buildings are required at Jefferson Barrack, and are recommended to be paid for out of the proceeds of the sale of the St. Louis Arsenal.

With reference to the Freedmen's Bureau the Secretary repeats what has already been published in General Howard's report. The expenses of the bureau were met the first year with the proceeds of rents, sales of crops, school taxes and tuition, and sale of "Confederate States" property. The amount received from all these miscellaneous sources was $1,865,645 80, and from appropriations by Congress since July, 1866, $11,084,750, making a total of $12,950,-395 80 received from all sources. The expenditures, including the accounts of the "Department of Negro Affairs," from June 1, 1865, to August 31, 1869, have been $11,194,028 10. The total expenses of the bureau have been $13,-524,816 82.

With regard to the Military Academy at West Point, the Secretary says: The reports of the board of visitors to the Military Academy for the present year is one of unusual importance and interest. The condition of affairs generally was found to be all that could be desired or expected under the present organization of the Academy; but the organization itself, which has remained unchanged since the days when the army was but 10,000 strong and the nation was very far below its present size and importance among other nations, is declared to be inadequate to meet the future demand of the country, and reorganization is accordingly recommended. The institution to be greatly enlarged, the number of cadets greatly increased; the standard of admission to be raised, and the cadets to be divided into two classes, one pursuing an ordinary course of military instruction, and its members returned to civil life upon graduation, to spread a knowledge of the military art throughout the land, and supply trained officers for the emergencies of war; the other, selected from the promising members of the former class, and studying and practicing to the very limits of military science. These recommendations are reviewed by the Inspector of the Military Academy, who does not advise any present enlargement of the Academy itself, but recommends an increase of the cadets to four hundred, a number which the Academy can accommodate without enlargement.

The principal occupation of the troops in the Division of the South has been in assisting revenue officers to execute the revenue laws; assisting United States marshals in executing the process of the United States courts; in enforcing the laws relative to the civil rights of freedmen, and all the laws for the protection of life and property. In the Department of the East and the Lakes the duties have been principally the charge and care of the sea coast and lake frontier defences; the prevention of any attempt to violate the neutrality laws; and, in one instance, in sustaining the United States authorities before the courts.

The present effective strength in the First Military District is 99 officers and 1,077 enlisted men, of which 31 officers and 427 enlisted men are on duty at the artillery school, 35 officers and 640 enlisted men with the Seventeenth Regiment of Infantry, and 33 officers and 10 enlisted men are on duty with military commissions and other reconstruction duty. If the companies of the Seventeenth Infantry are filled to the maximum by recruiting, no increase of the force in this district will be necessary.

It has been found difficult to find suitable persons willing to accept offices the duties of which yielded no compensation, and interfered with their ordinary business, and embarrassment was occasioned by the social and political pressure brought to bear upon native Virginians who were suggested or recommended for an office that involved the necessity of taking the oath prescribed by the law of July 2, 1862. However, with but few exceptions, the county organization is so far completed as to be in working condition. The amount of funds appropriated for reconstruction purposes, and remaining in the hand of the paymaster, October, 1, 1868, was $13,343 26; received during the year ending September 30, 1869, $166,714 31; expended during the year ending September 30, 1869, $146,902 86; balance on hand, October 1, 1869, $33,154 71.

In the Fourth Military District, the employment of troops beyond the ordinary routine of duty has been confined to an expedition for the purpose of arresting lawless characters, guilty of murder, or other serious offences. Supported by public opinion, a few men, in defiance of the law, commit murders and outrages, and civil officers are unequal to the task of bringing them to justice. Guarded and protected by their neighbors, their arrest becomes very difficult, and the assistance of troops is demanded. The parties injured or their friends rarely undertake to aid the civil or military authorities, and if so, hesitatingly and secretly. The cases are not numerous where violence has been offered the regularly constituted authorities, and in those instances the act was committed generally by individuals who, nevertheless, were secreted and shielded by the people.

In the Fifth Military District, Indian raids during the year have been unusually bold, and it is believed commanded in most instances by white men. Heavy damages to the citizens in live stock and property have resulted, but the loss of life has been small, amounting to about twenty-six persons.

It will be impossible to prevent Indian raids as long as there are wild Indians not assigned to any defined territory, and protection to the frontier cannot be afforded with the force in the district, owing to the numerous demands made upon it in the execution of the reconstruction laws. It is recommended by General Reynolds that a line of telegraph be built connecting the posts between Red River and the Rio Grande at some convenient point with Austin, San Antonia, or Waco. Such a line will afford prompt communication with the frontier posts, and will effect concert of action. The expenses will be trifling, compared with the advantage that may reasonably be expected.

The number of cases tried by military commission, under section 3 of the act of March, 1867, from October 30, 1868, to September 30, 1869, is 59, of which 21 were convicted and 38 acquitted.

The number of murders in the State of Texas from January 1, 1869 to September 30, 1869, was 384, and the number of crimes of this nature is steadily diminishing.

The report closes with the following statement of appropriations, expenditures and estimates: There was carried to the surplus fund June 30, 1869, the sum of $58,239,174 93. The actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were, including the freedman bureau, $56,761,732 16, to which must be added for old war debts paid the sum of $23,882,310 60, making the total expenditures $80,644,042 76. Of the above there was expended for reconstruction purposes $406,419 18. There was appropriated for the service of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, $37,538,852 08. The estimated deficiencies are $2,940,-000 00. The total estimate of military appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1869, is $34,531,031 39. In the foregoing estimate the amounts originally presented by the heads of bureaus have been materially reduced, and any appropriation smaller in amount than that asked for would fail to meet the necessary wants of the departments. The following estimates are submitted separately, and are given for the consideration of Congress, as presented by the Chief of Engineers: For fortifications, $4,196,-400; for rivers and harbors, $7,961,900. Total, $12,158,300. As to the fortifications, I urge the appropriations asked for the forts near the larger cities named in the report of the General of the Army, to-wit: Portland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco.

FROM CONNEAUT LAKE.

The Place for Hunters and Anglers—The Lake House.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

CONNEAUT LAKE, December 1, 1869.

To the disciples of gentle Izaak, or those who prefer dog and gun, there is no more attractive region within a radius of three hundred miles from Pittsburgh than Conneaut Lake. The fame of this section of Crawford county as a hunting ground has gone abroad. Scarcely a season passes which does not bring here hundreds of sportsmen, principally amateurs, therefore perfectly harmless as far as the game is concerned. Within the past fortnight several parties from your city "dropped down" for a few days' hunting. A few hours' run brings one from Pittsburgh to Evansburg Station, on the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad two and a half miles from the lake, which is some four miles long, varying from one to two miles in width. Simply as a pleasure resort, this region possesses attractions such as cannot be found this side of the mountains. A practiced hand and a keen eye will here find opportunities such as are seldom found between this and the prairies.

Ample accommodations are furnished in the Lake House (located at the lower end of the lake), for fifty guests. The proprietor, Captain John F. Nelson, is a proficient in the art of purveying. Here the hungry and weary sportsman can always rely upon securing all the comfort that a thoughtful landlord can devise. Whether it fares well or ill with him with rod or gun "Jack" Nelson's larder like the widow's cruse, is a never failing source of joy to the inward man. Do you want a boat, tackle, or gun even, it will go hard with "Jack" if your wants are not supplied. In the matter of boats there is an abundance set apart for the exclusive use of his guests, together with a corps of careful oarsmen, whom we found very accommodating. In a word, in addition to a table such as is rarely met with outside of half a dozen hotels I could mention, the landlord at the Lake House looks after the interests of his guests. Hence his popularity.

SPORTSMAN.